



Chef Eric Mah

## Nominee to lead FAA will face challenge on Boeing oversight

By DAVID KOENIG and TOM KRISHER

Associated Press

President Donald Trump has tapped a former Delta Air Lines executive to lead the Federal Aviation Administration as the regulator deals with questions about its approval of a Boeing airliner involved in two deadly crashes within five months. The White House said Tuesday that Trump will nominate Stephen Dickson to head the FAA. The agency has been led by an acting administrator since January 2018.

Separately, the Transportation Department confirmed that its watchdog agency will examine how the FAA certified the Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft, the now-grounded plane involved in two fatal accidents with-

in five months.

The FAA had stood by the safety of the plane up until last Wednesday, despite other countries grounding it. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao formally requested the audit in a letter sent to Inspector General Calvin Scofel III on Tuesday. Chao, whose agency oversees the FAA, said the audit will improve the department's decision-making. Her letter confirmed that she had previously requested an audit. It did not mention that the inspector general and federal prosecutors have already started looking into the development and regulatory approval of the jet, as reported by news outlets, including The Associated Press.

Continued on Page 3



In this Monday, March 11, 2019 file photo, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 airplane being built for TUI Group sits parked in the background at right at Boeing Co.'s Renton Assembly Plant in Renton, Wash.

Associated Press

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# Shifting hopes as Republicans, Democrats wait for Mueller

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and MARY CLARE JALONICK  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — It's a witch hunt, a vendetta, the worst presidential harassment in history.

That's what President Donald Trump has shouted for two years about the special counsel's Russia probe. Now, barring an eleventh-hour surprise, Trump and his allies are starting to see it as something potentially very different: a political opportunity.

With Robert Mueller's findings expected any day, the president has grown increasingly confident the report will produce what he insisted all along — no clear evidence of a conspiracy between Russia and his 2016 campaign. And Trump and his advisers are considering how to weaponize those possible findings for the 2020 race, according to current and former White House officials and presidential confidants who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

A change is underway as



In this June 21, 2017, file photo, special counsel Robert Mueller departs after a meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington.

well among congressional Democrats, who have long believed the report would offer damning evidence against the president. The Democrats are busy building new avenues for evidence to come out, opening a broad array of investigations of Trump's White

House and businesses that go far beyond Mueller's focus on Russian interference to help Trump beat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

It's a striking role reversal. No one knows exactly what Mueller will say, but Trump, his allies and members of Congress are trying to map out the post-probe political dynamics.

One scenario would have seemed downright implausible until recently: The president will take the findings and run on them, rather than against them, by painting the special counsel as an example of failed government overreach and Trump himself as the victim who managed to prove his innocence.

The top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said on the House floor last week that he had a "news flash" for Democrats who had high hopes that the report would be damaging to Trump.

"What happens when it comes back and says none of this was true, the president did not do anything wrong?" Collins asked. "Then the meltdown will occur."

Trump's tweeted version was even more graphic: The Democrats' House investigative committees were going "stone cold

CRAZY."

That was in reaction to Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler's document requests to 81 people, businesses and organizations related to Trump. Nadler said his panel must look at "a much broader question" than Mueller has.

Adam Schiff, chairman of the intelligence committee, also said there's much more to look into. Mueller, he said, "can't be doing much of a money laundering investigation" if he hasn't subpoenaed Deutsche Bank, which has loaned millions of dollars to Trump. Schiff's panel, along with the House Financial Services Committee, is looking into money laundering and Trump's foreign financial entanglements.

"We have a separate and independent responsibility," Schiff has said. "And that is to tell the country what happened."

The Russia probe, taken over by Mueller in May 2017, has posed a mortal threat to the presidency since Trump was elected — a possible case for collusion or obstruction of justice that could begin a domino effect ending with impeachment. Those fears still exist, but as the investigation winds down, other feelings have taken hold in

the White House, namely a cautious optimism that the worst is over, that no smoking gun has been found.

Even if Mueller's final report does not implicate the president in criminal conduct, the investigation was far from fruitless. His team brought charges against 34 people, including six Trump associates, and three companies. His prosecutors revealed a sweeping criminal effort by Russians to interfere in the 2016 presidential election and showed that people connected to the Trump campaign were eager to exploit emails stolen from Democrats.

Trump, of course, has railed relentlessly against the probe, deeming it a baseless "witch hunt," sometimes in all capital letters, and has said it was based on unfounded allegations perpetrated by his "deep state" enemies in the Department of Justice, as well as his foes in the Democratic Party and the media.

If the report proves anticlimactic, says former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a strong Trump ally, "there would no longer be any justification for what the House Dems want to do. They have their report, they had the guy they wanted writing it, and he had the full power of the federal government behind him and they still didn't get the president."

In fact, Trump has told his inner circle that, if the report is underwhelming, he will use Twitter and interviews to gloat over the findings, complain about the probe's cost and depict the entire investigation as an attempt to obstruct his agenda, according to advisers and confidants.

The president's campaign and pro-Trump outside groups will then likely amplify the message, while his advisers expect the conservative media, including Fox News, to act as an echo chamber. A full-throated attack on the investigation, portraying it as a failed coup, could also be the centerpiece of Trump campaign events, including rallies, they say. □

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# Nominee to lead FAA will face challenge on Boeing oversight

Continued from Front

The letter requests “an audit to compile an objective and detailed factual history of the activities that resulted in the certification of the Boeing 737 Max-8 aircraft.” It also says the audit will help the FAA “in ensuring that its safety procedures are implemented effectively.”

Boeing said Tuesday that it will fully cooperate with the audit.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., called Chao's three-paragraph request for an audit “inadequate and incomplete.”

In his own letter to the inspector general, Blumenthal said the watchdog should examine whether problems with the plane were missed because Boeing employees did some safety-certification work on FAA's behalf. He also questioned whether the FAA should have done more after the first 737 Max accident, and why the FAA didn't ground the plane as quickly as other regulators around the world.

Questions about the FAA's handling of the issue extend beyond U.S. borders and will pose an immediate challenge for Dickson if he is confirmed to lead the agency.

Canadian Transport Minister Marc Garneau said this week that even if FAA certifies Boeing's fix for the software on the 737 Max jet, “we will do our own certification.”

Dickson was Delta's senior

vice president of flight operations until retiring on Oct. 1 after 27 years with the airline, including time flying

feeding into a new automated flight-control system may have played a role in the Indonesian crash, and

cording to a person familiar with the briefing who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are

the FAA's practice of using employees of aircraft manufacturers to handle some safety inspections. FAA inspectors review the work of the manufacturers' employees, who are on the company payroll and could face a conflict of interest.

A federal grand jury in Washington sent a subpoena to someone involved in the plane's development seeking emails, messages and other communications, the person told The Associated Press.

The Oct. 29 Lion Air crash killed 189 people, and 157 died in the March 10 accident involving an Ethiopian Airlines jet. Both accidents happened shortly after takeoff.

Other nations banned the Max 8 and a slightly larger model, the Max 9, in the days after the Ethiopian crash. The FAA and U.S. airlines that use the planes stood by the plane's safety until last week.

There are about 370 Max jets of various models at airlines around the world. American, Southwest and United have said the grounding of their Max jets have led to some canceled flights.

The plane is an important part of Chicago-based Boeing's future. The company has taken more than 5,000 orders and delivered more than 250 Max jets last year. Boeing still makes an older version of the popular 737, but it expected the Max to account for 90 percent of all 737 deliveries this year. □



In this Dec. 11, 2018 file photo, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao speaks during a major infrastructure investment announcement at transportation headquarters in Washington.

Associated Press

the 737 and other Boeing jets. Before that, he was an Air Force pilot. He emerged in recent weeks as the likely choice to lead FAA.

For the past 14 months, the agency has been under an acting administrator, Daniel Elwell, a former Air Force and American Airlines pilot. A Lion Air Boeing 737 Max 8 crashed off the coast of Indonesia last October, and an Ethiopian Airlines Max 8 crashed this month near Addis Ababa.

Investigators suspect that incorrect sensor readings

the Ethiopian plane had a similar, erratic flight path. Boeing began working on an upgrade to software behind the flight-control system shortly after the Lion Air crash. CEO Dennis Muilenburg said in recent days that the company is close to finishing the update and changes in pilot training to help crews respond to faulty sensor readings.

Elwell told House Transportation Committee members that Boeing expects the software update to be finished by Monday, ac-

not authorized to speak on the timing publicly. The FAA earlier required design changes to the flight-control system “no later than April.”

After Boeing finishes the software, the FAA still must approve it.

The Associated Press reported Monday that the Justice Department is probing the development of the Max, according to a person briefed on the matter. It is unclear when that inquiry began.

Critics have questioned





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## Trump buddies up with Bolsonaro, the 'Trump of the Tropics'

By JILL COLVIN and PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump welcomed Brazil's new far-right leader to the White House Tuesday and made clear that flattery pays. Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro — the "Trump of the Tropics" — ran an unabashedly pro-Trump, pro-American campaign last year, emulating Trump in tone and style. It seems to have paid off for Bolsonaro on his first official trip to Washington.

At a joint news conference, Trump announced that he'd agreed to designate Brazil a "major non-NATO ally" — something Brazil had pursued to smooth U.S. weapons purchases



**President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in the Oval Office of the White House, Tuesday, March 19, 2019, in Washington.**

Associated Press

and military coordination. Trump even said he'd be open to granting full NATO membership to Latin America's largest and most populous nation, even though Brazil doesn't qualify to join

the North Atlantic alliance. The showing was the latest example of the premium Trump puts on personal relationships and the extent to which he's willing to work with those who sing

his virtues. And it renewed focus on the growing wave of populist strongmen who have captured voters' support with blunt admonitions of "political correctness" and hardline immigration views.

As they sat down for the first time, Trump hailed Bolsonaro's run as "one of the incredible campaigns," saying he was "honored" it had drawn comparisons to his own 2016 victory. And he predicted the two would have a "fantastic working relationship," telling reporters at a joint press conference that they have "many views" in common. The two also exchanged soccer jerseys in a sign of their budding friendship. Bolsonaro was equally complimentary, predicting Trump would win re-election in 2020 and drawing parallels between their efforts.

Standing side-by-side in the White House Rose Garden, Bolsonaro said their two countries "stand side by side in their efforts to ensure liberties and respect to traditional family lifestyles, respect to God, our Creator, against the gender ideology or the politically correct attitudes and against fake news." The embrace represents a shift in U.S.-Brazilian relations. In 2013, leaks from Edward Snowden revealed that the National Security Agency had wiretapped conversations of former President Dilma Rousseff, leading to several years of tense relations between the nations.

Bolsonaro had arrived in the U.S. with a half a dozen ministers and a goal of expanding trade, diplomatic and military cooperation between the two largest economies in the Western Hemisphere. And Trump

appeared eager to deliver. He announced he would back Brazil's effort's to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, while floating the idea of full NATO membership, though he said he'd "have to talk to a lot of people" for Brazil to join the organization.

However, James Stavridis, a retired Navy admiral who was the Supreme Allied Commander at NATO from 2009 to 2013, said Brazil does not qualify for full membership under the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949.

"The idea of formal membership is a nonstarter in every dimension — the treaty doesn't allow it, the Brazilians wouldn't want it and the Europeans wouldn't approve," Stavridis said in an email exchange.

The efforts came as both countries continue to denounce the crisis in Venezuela and called on members of the Venezuelan military to end their support for President Nicolas Maduro. Both the U.S. and Brazil have recognized opposition leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's legitimate leader, and Trump reiterated that "all options" to address Venezuela's economic and political crisis remain on the table.

The leaders also were expected to discuss a range of other issues, including expanding trade relations and increasing U.S. private-sector investment in Brazil. Bolsonaro has much in common with Trump. He, too, ran an insurgent, social media-powered campaign. And like Trump, he has blasted unflattering stories as "fake news" and used Twitter and Facebook to bypass mainstream news organizations. □

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# Poll: Support rises in all age groups for legal pot

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — A growing majority of Americans say marijuana should be legal, underscoring a national shift as more states embrace cannabis for medical or recreational use. Support for legal marijuana hit 61 percent in 2018, up from 57 percent two years ago, according to the General Social Survey, a widely respected trend survey that has been measuring support for legal marijuana since the 1970s. An analysis of the survey by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and the General Social Survey staff finds that increased backing of legalization cut across all age groups and political parties. The 2018 poll is the first in which a majority of Republicans support legalizing marijuana — 54 percent, up from 45 percent in 2016. Among Democrats, 76 percent now favor legalization. The rising support mirrors the evolving legal landscape across the



This Feb. 17, 2016 file photo shows marijuana plants at a home in Honolulu.

country. Most Americans now live in places where marijuana is legal in some form, with 10 states allowing recreational usage and more than 30 allowing medicinal use. The GSS asks about making use of marijuana legal, but does not specify whether it should be legal for recre-

ational or medical use. Legalization advocates say the increasing public support should prompt the U.S. government to reverse course. At the federal level, marijuana is categorized as a dangerous illegal drug, similar to LSD or heroin. "Our time has come," said Justin Strekal, political di-

rector of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, or NORML. "Never in modern history has there existed greater public support for ending the nation's nearly century-long experiment with marijuana prohibition." Support for legalization is strongest among 18-to-34-

year-olds, with nearly 75 percent favoring it. But older Americans are taking a more favorable view, too. Forty-six percent of those 65 and older say marijuana should be legal, up from 42 percent in 2016. Views on marijuana legalization have shifted dramatically: In the 1973 GSS, just 19 percent supported legalization. The change in Americans' views about cannabis can also be witnessed on the campaign trail. A growing list of Democratic presidential contenders want the U.S. government to legalize marijuana, including California Sen. Kamala Harris, a former prosecutor whose home state is the nation's largest legal pot shop, and New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker, a prominent legalization advocate on Capitol Hill. Support for legal pot has been gradually growing for years, but it has increased sharply since 2012, when Colorado and Washington state became the first states to legalize the recreational use of cannabis. □

The General Social Survey has been conducted since 1972 by NORC at the University of Chicago, primarily using in-person interviewing.

Sample sizes for each year's survey vary from about 1,500 to about 3,000 adults, with margins of error falling between plus or minus 2.2 percentage points and plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

The most recent survey was conducted April 12 through Nov. 10, 2018, and includes interviews with 2,348 American adults.

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## NYC official: Kushner firm flouted rules, endangered tenants

By **BERNARD CONDON**

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A New York City councilman accused the Kushner family real estate company on Tuesday of putting tenants in danger by allowing several of its buildings to avoid safety inspections.

New York Oversight Committee Chair Ritchie Torres said his investigation showed that the firm once run by President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been renting apartments to hundreds of tenants in nine buildings with certificates of occupancy that expired months or years ago. Torres also said that the company has been trying to push low-paying tenants out of its buildings and didn't want the regulatory scrutiny that comes with inspections required to renew the certificates.



This Aug. 31, 2018 file photo shows Kushner family real estate firm-owned buildings 333, center, and 335 East 9th Street in the East Village neighborhood of New York.

"The goal here is a concerted campaign to evade scrutiny," said Torres at a news conference outside the Kushner Cos.

headquarters at 666 Fifth Avenue. "The company is engaged in what I call the weaponization of construction — the use of construction as a weapon for harassing tenants out of their apartments."

But a city regulator that oversees landlords called the expired certificates cited by Torres and tenant watchdog group, Housing Rights Initiative, "paperwork lapses" and blasted the findings as "pure grandstanding." Our "top priority is safety — and indeed, we have inspected all these buildings or renovated units and deemed them safe to occupy," said Buildings Department spokesman Andrew Rudansky in an emailed statement.

The Kushner Cos. said that the problems with the certificates stretch back to

its previous owners. Certificates for two of the nine buildings expired while Jared Kushner was CEO.

"Similar to many other landlords, we inherited from prior owners certificates of occupancy with various issues," it said in an email. "Kushner will continue the long and detailed process to work with our consultants and the Department of Buildings to correct every issue outstanding." The city requires a certificate of occupancy whenever significant renovation is done such as changing the layout of a building or of its fire exits. Most of the nine Kushner buildings cited are in the East Village section of Manhattan and appear from city records to have undergone substantial renovation and faced several violations.

The Kushner Cos. was fined

\$210,000 by city regulators last year after an Associated Press report found that the company had submitted paperwork to regulators that claimed it had no low-paying, rent-stabilized tenants in dozens of its buildings when it, in fact, had hundreds. The false paperwork allowed the company to avoid inspections and other scrutiny during construction work that critics have said are often used by landlords to chase low-paying renters out.

The Kushner Cos. has said that the paperwork was handled by another firm and mistakes were corrected when they came to its notice.

The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday reported that the Kushners have hired a broker to sell five apartment buildings in the East Village as their company comes under public and media scrutiny. It is not clear if those are among the nine buildings with expired certificates of occupancy.

Jared Kushner stepped down as the head of his family firm two years ago to become a White House adviser. He still owns stake in Westminster Management, the Kushner Cos. subsidiary that oversees its residential properties. A financial disclosure filed with federal ethics regulators shows he earned \$1.5 million from the holding last year.

At Tuesday's news conference, the head of Housing Rights Initiative said that many landlords, not just the Kushners, were flouting the rules and regulators need to crack down. □

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# San Francisco floats ban on e-cigarettes pending U.S. review



In this April 11, 2018, file photo, a high school student uses a vaping device near a school campus in Cambridge, Mass.  
Associated Press

By JANIE HAR  
Associated Press

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — San Francisco is trying to crack down on electronic cigarettes that critics say aggressively target kids, with an official on Tuesday proposed what's believed to be the first U.S. ban on their sale until the federal government regulates vaping products. City Attorney Dennis Herrera said San Francisco, Chicago and New York sent a joint letter demanding that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration evaluate the effect of e-cigarettes on public health. Herrera said the review should have been done before e-cigarettes entered the market. The FDA released proposed guidelines last week giving companies until 2021 to submit applications for the evaluation. "The result is that millions of children are already addicted to e-cigarettes and millions more will follow if we don't act," he said Tuesday. Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is addictive and can harm adolescent brains that are still developing. In the U.S., youth are more likely than adults to use e-cigarettes. San Francisco Supervisor Shamann Walton introduced legislation banning the sale of e-cigarettes in the city unless they get an FDA review. Supporters say that if the measure is approved, it would be the

first such prohibition in the country. Its chances are not clear. "We have people addicted to nicotine who would have never smoked a cigarette had it not been for the attractive products that target our young people," said Walton, a former president of the San Francisco Board of Education. Anti-tobacco activists say e-cigarette makers target kids by offering products in candy flavors and using marketing that portrays their products as flashy gadgets. San Francisco was the first city in the United States to approve an outright ban on the sale of flavored tobacco and flavored vaping liquids, which voters upheld in 2018. The city prohibits smoking in parks and public squares and doesn't allow smokeless tobacco at its playing fields. The city has often been on the forefront in passing liberal social policies that clash with business interests, whether it's banning single-use plastic bags or the sale of fur products. The FDA declined immediate comment on the letter from the three cities. Manufacturers were supposed to submit most products for review by August 2018, but FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb in 2017 delayed the deadline until 2022. He said at the time that both the agency and the industry needed more time to prepare. The agency unveiled pro-

posed guidelines last week moving up the deadline to August 2021 and restricting sales of most flavored products to stores that verify the age of customers upon entry or that use a separate, age-restricted area for vaping products. In 2018, more than 3.6 million U.S. middle and high school students used e-cig-

arettes in the past 30 days, including nearly 5 percent of middle school students and nearly 21 percent of high school students, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. Walton also introduced legislation that bars making, selling or distributing tobacco on city property. That proposal is aimed at

Juul Labs, an electronic cigarette company that rents space on Pier 70. "We don't want them in our city," Walton said. A spokesman for Juul said the proposed legislation would limit adult smokers' abilities to access e-cigarettes that could help them kick regular smoking habits. □

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# UK aims to salvage Brexit deal as EU says: make up your mind

By JILL LAWLESS  
LORNE COOK  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit plan has been derailed in Parliament. Now she is at the mercy of an exasperated European Union. May was preparing Tuesday to ask the EU for a delay of at least several months to Brexit after the speaker of the House of Commons ruled that she can't keep asking lawmakers to vote on the same divorce deal that they have already rejected twice. Chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said the bloc wouldn't automatically grant the request. He said a long extension "must be linked to something new, a new event, or a new political process."

"The real question is, what is the purpose of it. What is it for?" Barnier said in Brussels.

"To get out of this uncertainty, we need choices and decision from the United Kingdom."

May had hoped to win over her domestic oppo-



European Union Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, right, talks to Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney during a meeting of EU ministers for European Affairs at the EU Council building in Brussels, Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

nents and bring her deal back to Parliament before a summit of the 28-nation bloc in Brussels on Thursday and Friday.

That plan was scuttled Monday by House of Commons Speaker John Bercow, who declared that

Parliament can only vote again if the deal is "fundamentally different" to the version rejected by 230 votes in January and 149 votes last week.

The deadlock leaves Britain's plan to exit the European Union — still sched-

uled to take place on March 29 — in limbo.

The prime minister's Downing St. office said May will send a letter formally requesting an extension to European Council President Donald Tusk on Tuesday or Wednesday. Downing St. wouldn't say how long a delay she plans to ask for.

If the Brexit deal was approved, May had planned to ask the bloc for an extension until June 30 in order for Parliament to pass the necessary legislation for Britain's departure.

Now a much longer delay looks likely. May has warned opponents that a failure to approve her agreement would mean a long, and possibly indefinite, delay to Britain's departure from the EU.

It could also mean Britain crashing out of the bloc next week without a deal, even though Parliament has voted to rule out that option.

By law, the U.K. will leave the EU on March 29, deal or no deal, unless it secures a delay from the bloc. Withdrawing without a deal could mean huge disruption for businesses and people in the U.K. and the 27 remaining EU countries. The EU is intensely frustrated with Britain's political

paralysis, and says it will only grant an extension if U.K. politicians break their deadlock and come up with new proposals.

"If there is no decision, the date of March 29 comes and then it's a 'no-deal,'" French European affairs minister Nathalie Loiseau said. "For the British to decide nothing is to decide on a 'no-deal.'"

Loiseau said U.K. lawmakers "have said no to a 'no-deal' and they have said no to a realistic deal. They have to change their mind on one of the two options." A top official at the French presidency said a British request would be assessed on "two criteria: Is there a new plan likely to win a majority, and what will be the impact on the European Union?"

"The EU's interests will be put before anything else," said the official, who isn't authorized to speak publicly in line with the presidency's customary practices. Germany's European affairs minister, Michael Roth, said he expected "clear and precise proposals" from Britain.

"We are really exhausted by these negotiations," Roth said at an EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels before the leaders' summit. EU leaders have been left bemused by Bercow's ruling, in which he cited a 400-year-old parliamentary precedent against voting repeatedly on the same issue.

"I'll concede that I wasn't actively aware of the British Parliament's rules of procedure from the 17th century, so I took note of this with interest yesterday," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

The British government is enraged at Bercow, believing he has overstepped the bounds of his role as speaker. As interpreter and enforcer of Parliament's rules, the speaker has broad powers. But some ministers have accused him of plunging Britain into a constitutional crisis by upsetting the balance of power between the government and Parliament. □

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## Italy seizes rescue ship, permits migrants to land in Italy

**Associated Press**

**MILAN (AP)** — A humanitarian rescue ship carrying 48 migrants entered the port of Lampedusa, where they were being allowed to disembark Tuesday evening despite an earlier refusal by Italy's hard-line interior minister.

The boat was allowed to enter the port after Sicilian prosecutors ordered it seized, ending the latest standoff with Italy's populist government, which has closed its ports to rescue ships. Interior Minister Matteo Salvini welcomed the seizure of the Mare Jonio, saying "now in Italy there is a government that defends the borders and ensures respect for the law, most of all for human traffickers. Whoever errs pays."



The Mare Jonio ship with 49 migrants on board docks at the port of Lampedusa island, Italy, Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Associated Press

As the boat approached the pier, the migrants on board, all males and mostly from sub-Saharan Africa, yelled "Freedom, freedom."

The migrants, including a dozen minors, had been rescued Monday off the coast of Libya by the Italian aid group Mediterranean Saving Humans.

The Mare Jonio had sailed earlier to Italy's southernmost island Lampedusa, where it was flanked by Italian coast guard and finance police boats.

The mayor of Lampedusa challenged Salvini's assertion that Italian ports are closed. Toto Martello said that more than 3,000 migrants arrived in Lampedusa last year on smuggler's boats. □

## Italy to join China initiative despite US objections

By COLLEEN BARRY

**Associated Press**

**MILAN (AP)** — Premier Giuseppe Conte pledged Tuesday to make Italy the first Group of Seven nation to join China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative, despite objections from the United States and concerns within his governing coalition.

Speaking to parliament, Conte said that Italy's signing of a memorandum of understanding for the infrastructure-building venture, which is due to happen during the Chinese premier's visit this week, would not "in the least" put into question Italy's position within the strategic trans-Atlantic alliance or with European partners.



Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte addresses the Lower Chamber of the Italian parliament in Rome, Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Associated Press

Italy's signature would be considered a major legitimization of the project that envisions overland and maritime routes connecting China with Europe. A

White House official has warned Italy against joining, calling it a Chinese "vanity project."

European governments declined to sign a joint

declaration on the "Belt and Road" at a forum last year in Beijing. They argued it lacked standards on financing and transparency. In his first remarks to lawmakers on the deal on the eve of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit, Conte said the details have been worked out over months of consultations at every level of government. He emphasized that the memorandum is not legally binding and that it would give Italy access to an enormous market.

"We want to first and foremost rebalance our trade, which is not favorable to us now. Our exports to China are far lower than other European countries," Conte said. "The infrastructure will

redefine commercial traffic routes. We will have new airports, new trade corridors, and it will certainly influence our economic growth. We don't want to lose any opportunity."

In parliament, the opposition attacked the planned memorandum and the lack of detail provided to lawmakers, warning that the deal could be a Trojan horse for China to undermine Italian industries. Concerns also center around whether the accords include 5G access.

Even lawmakers from the right-wing League, part of Conte's coalition, say their support for the memorandum is conditional on it not harming Italy's relations with its partners. □



# Troops celebrate as US-backed force seizes IS camp in Syria

By PHILIP ISSA

Associated Press

**BAGHOUZ, Syria (AP)** —

U.S.-backed Syrian forces on Tuesday seized control of an encampment held by the Islamic State group in eastern Syria, after hundreds of militants surrendered overnight, a spokesman said, signaling the group's collapse after months of stiff resistance. A group of suspects involved in a January bombing that killed four Americans in northern Syria were among militants captured by the Kurdish-led forces.

The taking of the IS camp was a major advance but not the final defeat of the group in Baghouz, the last village held by the extremists where they have been holding out for weeks under siege, according to Mustafa Bali, the spokesman for the Kurdish-led force known as the Syrian Democratic Forces. Still, fighters from the force were starting to celebrate anyway.

"I'm happy it's over. Now I know my people are safe," said a fighter who identified himself as Walid Raqqawi who fought in the camp Monday night. He said he is returning to his hometown of Raqqa to rest. Comrades from his unit sang and danced in celebration at an outpost in Baghouz, all saying they were looking forward to going home.

An unknown number of IS militants still clung to a tiny sliver of land trapped between the Euphrates River and the encampment now held by the SDF, officials in the force said.

The militants have been putting up a desperate fight, their notorious propaganda machine working even on the brink of collapse. On Monday, IS issued a video showing its militants furiously defending the encampment, a junkyard of wrecked cars, motorcycles and tents. In the footage, they shoot nonstop with AK-47s and M-16s from behind trucks, vehicles and sand berms. A group of children could be seen at one point amid the fighting. "My Muslim brothers everywhere, we



**U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighters celebrate their territorial gains over Islamic State militants in Baghouz, Syria, move to a camp Tuesday, March 19, 2019.**

did our best, the rest is up to God," a fighter says as black smoke rises from behind him. The complete fall of Baghouz would mark the end of the Islamic State group's self-declared territorial "caliphate," which at its height stretched across much of Syria and Iraq. For the past four years, U.S.-led forces have waged a destructive campaign to tear down the "caliphate." But even after Baghouz's fall, IS maintains a scattered presence and sleeper cells that threaten a continuing insurgency.

The battle for Baghouz has dragged on for weeks — and the encampment has proven a major battleground, with tents covering foxholes and underground tunnels.

The siege has also been slowed by the unexpectedly large number of civilians in Baghouz, most of them families of IS members. Over past weeks they have been flowing out, exhausted, hungry and often wounded. The sheer number who emerged — nearly 30,000 since early January according to Kurdish officials — took the Kurdish-led SDF by surprise.

In the last two weeks, many IS militants appeared to be among those evacuating. But SDF commanders have stopped speculating

when the battle may finally be over. Commanders say they don't know how many more may still be left, hiding in tunnels beneath the war-scarred village.

In the seizure Tuesday of the encampment, hundreds of wounded and sick militants were captured and have been evacuated to nearby military hospitals for treatment, Bali, the SDF spokesman, said in a Twitter post. Still, he cautioned, "this is not a victory announcement, but a significant progress in the fight."

There were conflicting reports from SDF commanders on the ground about the extent of the IS surrender. Commander Rustam Hasake told The Associated Press that SDF forces advanced on four fronts Monday night and were inside the camp when the last IS fighters surrendered at dawn. He said the last fighters were pushed out of the camp and were now in an open patch of land by the Euphrates River and were being processed and detained.

Another commander, however, said some IS militants continue to hold a tiny area in an open patch of land in the village, outside the encampment.

AP journalists in Baghouz reported sporadic gunfire echoing in Baghouz and

jets circling overhead. At a command post in Baghouz, a Humvee pulled up and unloaded weapons captured from IS on Tuesday, including sniper and hunting rifles, pump action shot guns and grenades and ammunition.

Five trucks hauling 10 trailers full of people were seen coming out of Baghouz. A child could be heard wailing from inside one of them. At least 100 people, nearly all of them children, have died in the truck trips from Baghouz on the way to a camp in northern Syria, or soon after reaching it, according to the International Rescue Committee — a sign of how miserable conditions were inside Baghouz during the siege as supplies ran out.

Bali, in a separate Twitter post Tuesday, said the SDF captured a group of suspects involved in a January suicide bombing that killed four Americans in the northern town of Manbij. He did not elaborate on the number of suspects or whether they were among the most recent militants to surrender. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the blast outside a popular restaurant in Manbij, which killed at least 16 people, including two U.S. service members and two American civilians. It was

the deadliest assault on U.S. troops in Syria since American forces went into the country in 2015.

As they make their final stand, the IS militants have issued a string of statements this month claiming to have inflicted heavy losses on the SDF.

In an audio posted online Monday, the IS spokesman, Abu Hassan al-Muhajer, issued his first message in six months, calling for revenge attacks by Muslims in Western countries in retaliation for the shooting attack on two New Zealand mosques that killed 50 people.

He also ridiculed U.S. declarations of the defeat of the Islamic State group, calling the claim of victory a "hallucination." But SDF fighters celebrated as if the final collapse were imminent. At the SDF outpost in Baghouz, a commander danced with his soldiers. Fighters said remaining IS militants didn't put up much resistance. "We fired on them with our rifles and heavy weapons and they didn't shoot back. So we walked into the camp and they didn't shoot at us," said Orhan Hamad, from the northern province of Hassakeh.

"I tell the martyrs, it wasn't for nothing. With God's permission, we've finished Daesh." □





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# Kazakhstan's president to step down after 30 years in power

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
JAMES ELLINGWORTH

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — President Nursultan Nazarbayev, the only leader that independent Kazakhstan has ever known, abruptly announced his resignation Tuesday after three decades in power, raising uncertainty over the future course of the Central Asian country.

In a televised address to the oil-rich nation, the 78-year-old Nazarbayev said he has made the "difficult" decision to terminate his authority as president, effective Wednesday.

He did not give a specific reason for the surprise move, but noted that he would have marked 30 years on the job later this year and added that he sees his mission as securing a smooth transition of power.

"As the founder of the independent state of Kazakhstan, I see my future task in ensuring the ascent to power of a new generation of leaders, who will continue reforms," he said.

Nazarbayev will retain the honorary title of "Elbasy" or "Leader of the Nation" and continue to wield considerable political power. He said he will remain chairman of the nation's Security Council and the head of the ruling Nur Otan party.

"I will stay with you, as a citizen, a man who loves our country," he said. "I will serve you until the end of my days."

He said that upper house speaker Kassym-Jomart Tokayev will serve as interim head of state in line with the constitution until a new election can be held. Tokayev is a former prime minister and foreign minister who also served as director-general of the U.N.



In this file photo taken on Oct. 18, 2018, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev arrives for the ASEM 12 in Brussels.

office in Geneva between 2011 and 2013.

Kazakhstan, despite having a population of only about 18 million, is the ninth-largest country in the world with an area of about 2.7 million square kilometers (1 million square miles). It borders Russia to the north and China to the east and has extensive oil reserves that make it strategically and economically important. Nazarbayev took the helm in Kazakhstan as its Communist Party chief of the republic in 1989 when it was part of the Soviet Union, and he was first elected its president weeks before the 1991 Soviet collapse gave the country its independence.

In those days, Kazakhstan was a backwater region best known for prisons, nuclear testing sites and being the home of the launch facility of the Soviet space program, the Baikonur Cosmodrome.

Nazarbayev has been

widely praised for maintaining stability and ethnic peace in Kazakhstan but he also has faced criticism for marginalizing the political opposition and creating what is effectively a one-party state.

He has maintained a delicate balance between Russia and the West, leading Kazakhstan to join a Russia-dominated economic alliance of ex-Soviet nations, but cultivating close energy ties and other links with the West.

He was lauded abroad for modernizing the oil industry and his decision to give up the nuclear weapons that Kazakhstan had inherited from the Soviet Union.

In 1997, Nazarbayev moved the country's capital from Almaty to the remote northern city of Astana in what was widely considered a way to fuse the ethnic-Russian minority in the north to the new Kazakh state. The new city was filled with post-modern

architecture including the soaring glass pyramid of the Palace of Peace and Accord, dedicated to harmony among religious and ethnic groups.

In 2010, Nazarbayev was awarded the title of "Leader of the Nation," which comes with lifelong immunity from prosecution and as-yet untested powers of veto over some government policies.

He departs at a time of rare open protest against the government.

He fired his prime minister and cabinet last month following a wave of protests by Kazakh women calling for more financial support for children and safer housing after a fire in which five children died. Soon after, he announced a program of more generous spending for large families.

Nazarbayev has extended his tenure by landslide victories in successive elections and plebiscites. He took nearly 98 percent of

the vote in the most recent election, in 2015, when elected for another five-year term.

Nazarbayev's resignation will set the stage for a potential battle between Russia and the United States for influence with the successor government.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russian President Vladimir Putin had spoken with Nazarbayev by telephone earlier Tuesday but didn't say what they had discussed. He wouldn't say if the Kazakh leader had given Putin advance warning of his move.

Konstantin Kosachev, the head of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of the Russian parliament, said Nazarbayev will retain clout in Kazakhstan and "there will be no radical changes in foreign or home policies."

Nazarbayev was born into a poor rural laborer's family on July 6, 1940. As a young adult, he worked in harsh conditions at a steel plant's blast furnace and at age 22 he joined the Communist Party. He worked his way up in the party, went to university and became known for his comparatively candid assessments of the Soviet Union's shortcomings.

That turn of mind positioned him in the reformist camp that came to ascendancy when Mikhail Gorbachev became leader of the Soviet Union in 1985.

Nazarbayev supported Russian President Boris Yeltsin during the failed coup attempt against Gorbachev by Communist hardliners. Nazarbayev opposed the breakup of the Soviet Union, but was forced to take Kazakhstan out of the union as it collapsed in December 1991. □



# Venezuelans find ways to cope with inflation and hunger

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO**

**Associated Press**

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)**

— Francibel Contreras brings her three malnourished children to a soup kitchen in the dangerous hillside Caracas slum of Petare where they scoop in spoonfuls of rice and scrambled eggs in what could be their only meal of the day.

Part of the tragedy of daily life in socialist Venezuela can be glimpsed in this small volunteer soup kitchen in the heart of one of Latin America's biggest slums, which helps dozens of children as well as unemployed mothers who can no longer feed them.

Some Venezuelans manage to endure the nation's economic meltdown by clinging to the shrinking number of well-paid jobs or by receiving some of the hundreds of millions of dollars sent home by friends and relatives abroad — a quantity that has swollen in recent years as millions of Venezuelans have fled. But a growing percentage of people across the country, especially in slums like Petare, are struggling to cope.

Contreras's husband, Jorge Flores, used to have a small stand at a local market selling things like bananas and yucca, eggs and lunchmeat — trying to scrape out a profit in a place where hyperinflation often made his wholesale costs double from day to day. Then he was robbed at gunpoint by a local gang. And his brother crashed the motorcycle he used to supply his stand.

So Flores abandoned the market stall and looked for other work. He does some plumbing jobs and the family has turned its living room into a barbershop, sheltered beneath a corrugated metal roof held down by loose bricks and planks. It's decorated with origami-like stars that the family has made out of Venezuela's colorful but rapidly depreciating bolivar bills.

"Our currency is worthless," Contreras said. "These days, I prefer trading a bag



**Eight-year-old Franyelis feeds her baby brother Joneiber as their mother Francibel Contreras holds a bowl of scrambled eggs and rice, at a soup kitchen in the Petare slum, Caracas, Venezuela.**

**Associated Press**

of flour for a manicure or a haircut."

The scarcity of milk, medicine and other basics — along with routine violence — has eroded support for socialist President Nicolas Maduro even in poor neighborhoods like Petare that once were his strongholds. Maduro says there's an opposition-led plot to oust him from power and says U.S. economic sanctions and local opposition sabotage are responsible for the meltdown. Various local polls show he retains support from roughly a fifth of the population, many of them ideological stalwarts, government-connected insiders or poor voters dependent on government handouts, including the so-called CLAP boxes of oil, flour, rice, pasta, canned tuna and other goods that arrive several times a year.

Contreras' family of four gets those boxes, but it's not enough to get by on for long. For months, they've been relying on the soup kitchen launched by opposition politicians as the main source of protein for their children. On a recent day, her 7-year-old son Jorbecker played a pickup

soccer game in the hilly, dusty streets in front of her home, while her husband practiced styling his mother's hair.

"I'm barely getting by," Flores said, scissors in hand. The four-day power outage that brought most of Venezuela to a halt this month added to Flores' misery. He wasn't able to use the electric clippers needed to give customers the sort of trims they demand.

"It hit us in a big way," he said. "You absolutely need the clippers."

The couple estimates the power outage cost the family the equivalent of \$11 in missed haircuts — a significant sum in a country where the minimum wage amounts to \$6 a month, even if most people supplement that figure by working side jobs and pooling resources with friends and neighbors.

Contreras and Flores charge 2,500 bolivars — about 70 U.S. cents — for a trim. A government-subsidized kilogram of flour can cost almost three times that, and Contreras says that lines for the rationed goods can be endless and she sometimes comes back empty-handed. She

also said she feels unsafe in the lines. Dozens of people have been killed in gang crossfires over the years, and some have been crushed to death when lines of shoppers turned into stampedes of desperate looters.

Next-door neighbor Dugleidi Salcedo sent her 4-year-old daughter to live with an aunt in the city of Maracay, two hours away, because she could no longer feed her. "My boys cry," the single mother of four said. "But they resist more than her when I tell them that there's no food."

After walking back from the soup kitchen, she opened the rusty door to her home of scraped, mint-colored walls. Inside, her 11-year-old son Daniel, who was born partially paralyzed and with developmental disabilities, lay on a stained couch while flies flew over his twisted, uncovered legs. When she took the lid off a plastic container to show her last bag of flour, a cockroach crawled out, making her jump back and scream.

"This is so tough," she said. "I don't have a job. I don't have any money."

Salcedo used to sell baked

goods and juices to neighbors from the window of her kitchen. Then, her fridge broke down and she couldn't find the money to fix it.

These days, she relies on the kindness of neighbors, or asks a friend who owns a small food shop for credit while she waits for loans from family members in other parts of Venezuela.

"This country has never been as bad," the 28-year-old said. "Just buying some rice or flour is something so hard, so expensive, and often, they don't even have any."

A few days later, thieves broke into the soup kitchen and stole food. Then, a fire broke out in the slum, burning 17 homes to the ground. It was caused by candles that were apparently being used for light after a power outage — an almost everyday occurrence in many parts of Venezuela. Opposition lawmaker Manuela Bolivar, whose Nodrizas Project runs the soup kitchen, said that when firefighters arrived, they lacked water and had to put out the blaze with dirt.

"It's a social earthquake," Bolivar said.

"They lose their homes. They're left in the open air. The soup kitchen was robbed. It's so many adversities: It's the infections, the lack of water and food."

At an outdoor market a short distance from Petare in the middle-class district of Los Dos Caminos, Carmen Gimenez shopped for carrots and other vegetables for a stew. When her 14-year-old daughter Camila asked if they could take some other products, she told her that they would have to stick to the basics. Although she has a job at a bank, she still struggles to make ends meet.

"It doesn't matter where you live. The need is the same," said Gimenez, 43.

"The poor, the rich, and the middle class — we're all suffering somehow because the government has leveled us all downwards," she adds with anger. "How did they dominate us? Through the stomach." □



## LOCAL



## Guest Chef from Calgary, Canada will present a 4-course dinner: Chef Eric Mah presents 'Dinner Under the stars' on the Renaissance Private Island

**ORANJESTAD—** Today, March 20th 2019 is your chance to enjoy a dinner on the beach at the Renaissance Private Island. Chef Eric Mah, from Calgary, Canada will be hosting the next edition of 'Dinner Under The Stars'.

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sive dinner which consist of a 4-course dinner: Lobster Salad as Amuse, followed by an appetize. You can choose between a Grilled Ceasar Salad or Beef Ravioli. The main dish is Duck Breast, Sea Bass or Beef Tenderloin and finally as dessert will be the popular 'Trio' or an Espresso pot de crème.

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## The Government of Aruba and the Dutch Marines signs agreement



**SAVANETA —** The Government of Aruba and De Commandant der Zeemacht in het Caribisch Gebied (CZMCARIB)-Commander of the Naval Forces of the Royal Netherlands Navy in the Caribbean- signed a mutual agreement to guarantee the continuity of the Sociale Vormings Traject (SVT) project.

The Social VormingsTraject (SVT) is a project that gives a second chance to youngsters with social problems. It started as a project financed by the Netherlands for 3

years. Afterwards this project was extended until August 2017. The SVT focused mostly on gang members and dropouts. Nowadays, it also gives opportunities to people between the ages of 18-24 that didn't complete school to be able to get vocational training. The project gives them training and the necessary work experience, and at the end they receive a diploma which will be the key to a better future.

The project consists of 2 phases. The first phase is a 4 month military

training for the ARUMIL. Here the youngsters are taught norms, values, discipline and respect. After finishing this 4 month training, the youngsters will continue with the second phase that is the vocational training. Here the trainee will receive study in different areas, and afterward will choose which area of interest best suits them. After completing the training successfully, the youngsters will be able to work in their field of study.

The Government of Aruba and the CZMCARIB are reliable partners and will do the utmost to provide guidance and support to this project, which gives the youngsters a new chance in life and a better future. The agreement signed states clearly the obligations and what the tasks and roles between the government of Aruba and the CZMCARIB are.

The next SVT training at the Dutch Marine will start on April 2nd 2019, with a maximum of 30 people. Preparations are already undergoing to welcome the next group. For more information check out the facebook page Formacion Social-



SVT, or send an email to [info.formacionsocial@gmail.com](mailto:info.formacionsocial@gmail.com) or call the Dutch Marine Base in Savaneta at 5225352. □



## Bohemian Restaurant: Check In Please



**PALM BEACH** — Avant-garde from France, nonconformist in style and ethnic in cuisine. That is what the new kid in town is about and **TONIGHT** they even top the eclectic vibe with live Flamenco singer Angela Baidez. Bohemian Restaurant is a

different swing, European flair and outside dining, a place from the same owner as the for years already successful Casa Tua restaurants. They know their dance well, but this time they lift it to a different level.

From 8 PM tonight Spanish Paella and much more is on the menu, of course with pairing wines. The beautiful garden of Bohemian will be filled with lights, good food and live music in an intimate, hip and off-beat ambiance. Catchy Rumba Gitana and dramatic Spanish ballads combine with the passionately prepared dishes to tickle your taste buds to the max. Bohemian Restaurant is located on the corner of Barceló Resort in the center of the hi-rise frenzy.

Free Parking available at the parking lot in front of Barceló Resort.

Make your reservations through their website: <https://bohemianaruba.com>. Call them at 00 297 280 8448. Facebook: Bohemian. □



## Open House at the National Library in San Nicolas



**SAN NICOLAS** — The National Library in San Nicolas celebrates the re-opening of their newly renovated building with an Open House to the public. This will take place on Thursday, March 21st, 2019.

You will be able to view a great collection of books, experience all the services they provide, and get to know the wonderful staff and admire the extraordinary murals on the building.

The National Library in San Nicolas is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00am until 5:00pm and on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00am until 7:00pm. Management of the National Library of Aruba would like to extend a cordial invitation to their members and visitors to the Open House. For more information visit their website: [www.bibliotecanacional.aw](http://www.bibliotecanacional.aw). □

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**NOORD** — There is a place on the Northern part of the island that makes up for your perfect dream night. The location: the island's rugged north coast and blue ocean forming your panoramic from Tierra del Sol's restaurant, either from the poolside outdoor terrace or from the elegant indoor restaurant. The offering: From breakfast to dinner excellent cuisine, friendly service, and a gorgeous setting, but now even more special with the NEW 'All You Can Taste'

**concept** – on from Tuesdays to Saturdays from 6PM – 10PM.

Tune in for an experience that will give dining another perspective. We are not talking about the standard 3-course menu, but about a journey through taste-land. The Restaurant at Tierra del Sol invites you to taste as many tapa-sized items as you wish from their extensive fine dining menu.

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Tuesday – Saturday 8:00am – 10:00pm  
Sunday 11:00am – 3:00pm



# Honoring of loyal and friendly visitors at the Divi Phoenix

**PALM BEACH—** Jonathan Boekhoudt of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor several of Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Distinguished Visitors and Goodwill Ambassadors. The Distinguished Visitor certificate

is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 10 years and more consecutively. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented to guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more

consecutively.

The honorees are **Mr. Frank and Mrs. Patricia Caloro from Massachusetts** together with Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jeanne Katrenak from Dudley, who have been honored as Distinguished



Visitors as they have been visiting Aruba for 10 consecutive years.

lovely people, the amazing beaches the variety of food and the fun they have when being here.

Also honored were **Mr. David and Mrs. Phyllis Sheuer from Massachusetts** who received the Goodwill Ambassador certificate as they have been visiting Aruba for 20 consecutive years.

Boekhoudt together with representatives of the Divi Phoenix Aruba presented the certificates to the honorees, and also handed over some presents and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home away from home. □

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island especially for the

## Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism Drive NFA growth Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of January 2019

**ORANJESTAD—** Monetary developments Compared to December 2018, money supply contracted in January 2019 by Afl. 37.6 million to Afl. 4,339.3 million, due to a decrease in net domestic assets (-Afl. 48.1 million), which was partially offset by an increase in net foreign assets (+Afl. 10.5 million).

The contraction in the domestic component of the money supply was due to a fall in domestic credit (-Afl. 33.4 million) and non-credit related balance sheet items (-Afl. 14.7 million). The downturn in domestic credit resulted from a decline in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector (-Afl. 42.6 million) and a rise in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector (+Afl. 9.2 million).

The drop in net claims of the banking sector on the public sector was caused by a



rise in government deposits (+Afl. 42.8 million) and a slight increase in gross claims (+Afl. 0.2 million). On the other hand, claims of the banking sector on the private sector expanded due to higher consumer credits (+Afl. 5.0 million) and business loans (+Afl. 4.0 million), while housing mortgages remained unchanged.

The growth in the net foreign assets of the banking sector resulted from net

purchases of foreign exchange from the public (+Afl. 269.9 million), mainly associated with foreign exchange revenue from tourism exports. This was largely offset by net sales of foreign exchange (-Afl. 259.4 million) to the public related mostly to payments for goods.

### Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for January 2019 noted a 3.9 percent increase

year-over-year (YOY). The main contributors to this rise were the components "Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages" and "Communication". Furthermore, by excluding the effect of food and energy, the core CPI grew by 2.3 percent (YOY). The 12-month average inflation rate was 3.8 percent in January 2019, compared to 3.6 percent in December 2018.

### Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 115.9 million in January 2019, Afl. 15.5 million more than the same month of the previous year. This outcome resulted from a rise in tax revenue (+Afl. 28.0 million), which was partially mitigated by a reduction in nontax revenue (-Afl. 12.5 million). The rise in tax revenue resulted mainly from a rise in income from turnover tax (+Afl. 8.5 million; introduction of the B.A.V.P as opposed to the same month in 2018), motor vehicle fees (+Afl. 4.8 million), profit tax (+Afl. 4.1 million), wage tax (+Afl. 3.4 million), income tax (+Afl. 3.3 million) and foreign exchange tax (+Afl. 2.1 million), among others. These increases were partly offset by decreases in transfer tax (-Afl. 1.4 million) and land tax (-Afl. 0.6 million).

### Tourism

Please note that figures on tourism were not yet available at the time of publica-



Today's  
Happening



## A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba



### Wednesday 20 Dinner under the stars

- Enjoy an exclusive 4-course dinner by International Guest Chef Eric Mahfrom Canada, owner of Purlieu Bistro. All this under the magical skies of the Renaissance Private Island
- Starts at 7:00PM
- Lucy's Pier (in front of Renaissance Mall)
- Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino



### Sunday 24 34th Aruba International Half Marathon

- Feel like going for a run? Then join the 34th Aruba International Marathon as an individual or in a team. If not, just park at the side of the road and cheer for the runners!!
- From 5:30 am-11:30 am
- Starting at Joe Laveist Sportpark in San Nicolas and finishing at Alhambra Casino in Eagle Beach.
- Facebook: IBISA Aruba

### Thursday 21 Reading Is Fundamental

- The National Library has been renovated and is ready to show you the great collection of books, experience all the services they provide and at the same time admire the extraordinary murals on their building.
- From 8:00 am- 7:00 pm
- Peter Stuyvesantstraat, San Nicolas
- [www.bibliotecanacional.aw](http://www.bibliotecanacional.aw)



### Friday 22 Aruban Night at the Mill Resort

- Experience Aruba's Culture; great Ambiance, extraordinary Music and sublime Food and Drinks at the restaurant at The Mill Resort
- From 6:00 PM until 10:00 PM
- The Mill Resort & Suites
- Facebook The Mill Resort & Suites

### Saturday 23 A Stitch in Time: Stitching Saturdays

- Stitching Saturdays is a workshop running from March until June led by local multidisciplinary artist Jess Wolff - Luna & the Wolff. This workshop includes 4 individual courses. Learn different techniques and approaches to stitching.
- From 10:00AM until 12:00PM
- Cas di Cultura, Oranjestad
- Facebook: Cas di Cultura



### Monday 25 Spiritual Monday

- Spiritual Mondays are on! Come and enjoy Yoga, meditation and Spirituality. This month will be all about Kundalini Meditation and techniques.
- 7:30pm- 8:30pm
- Alto Vista, Noord
- Facebook: Yogi Vibes Aruba



### Tuesday 26 Do You Believe in Magic?

- **Guy Bavli, Master of the Mind!** Experience what the best live magic show is all about!
- 8:00pm-10:00pm
- Alhambra Casino
- Facebook: Guy Bavli - Master of the Mind



# SPORTS



Tommy Fleetwood, of England, tees off on the fourth hole during the final round of The Players Championship golf tournament Sunday, March 17, 2019, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

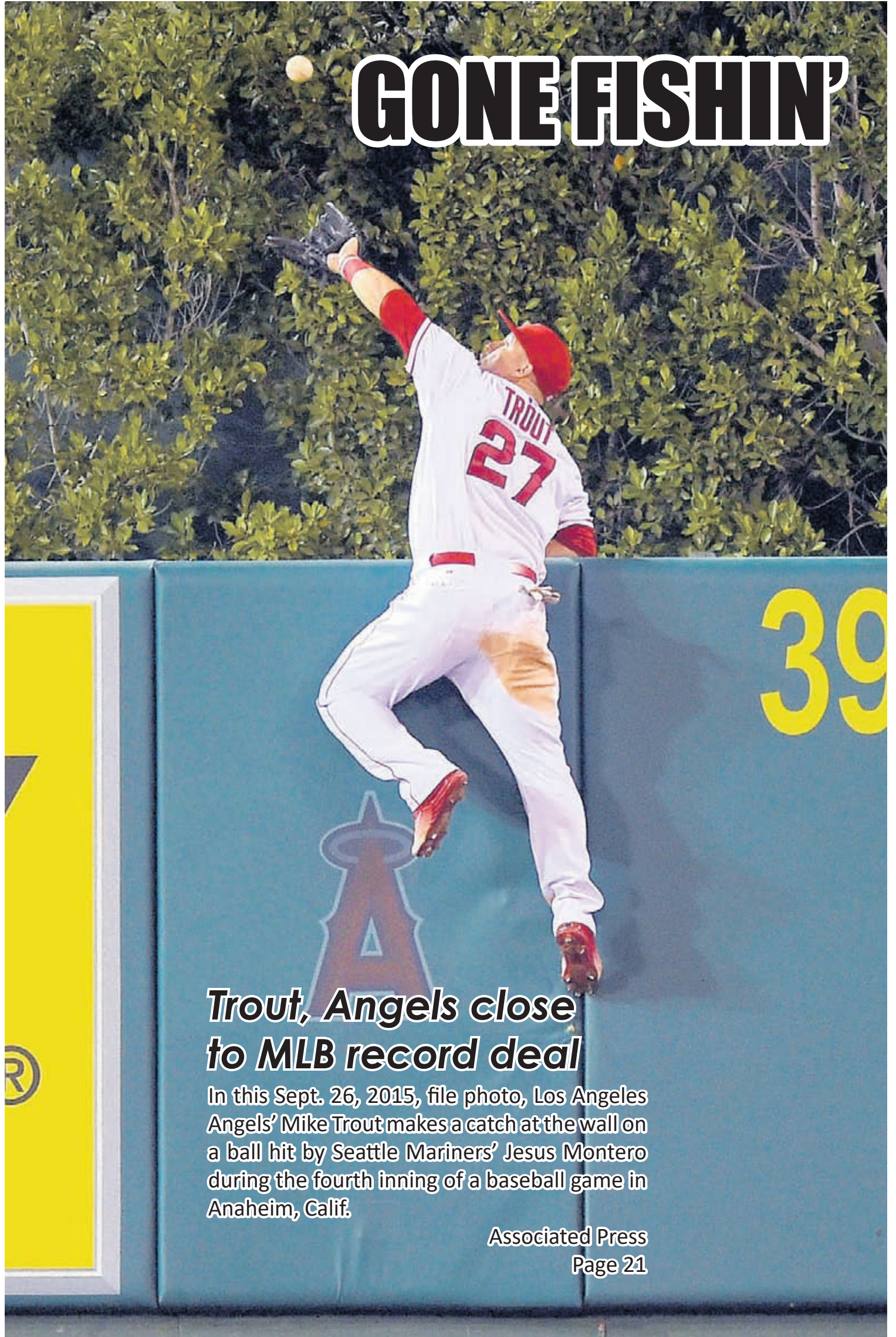
## PGA Tour study shows disparity in ranking points

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer  
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.  
(AP) — Two tournaments

on different continents illustrate why PGA Tour players are increasingly skeptical about the world ranking. Against a field as strong as some majors, Tommy Fleetwood shared the lead after 18 and 36 holes, played in the final group and was still in the mix at The Players Championship until a tee shot into the water on the 17th hole. His three-way tie for fifth was worth 16.53 ranking points.

Earlier that day, Guido Migliozzi won his first European Tour title at the Kenya Open, which until this year was a Challenge Tour event. The strength of its field was slightly weaker than the Boonchu Ruangkit Championship on the Asian Development Tour in January.

Continued on Page 22



## Trout, Angels close to MLB record deal

In this Sept. 26, 2015, file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout makes a catch at the wall on a ball hit by Seattle Mariners' Jesus Montero during the fourth inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif.

Associated Press  
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## Manziel confident as he begins his latest football comeback

**MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —** Johnny Manziel says he remains confident in his ability to play football "at any level" as the 2012 Heisman Trophy winner attempts another comeback, this time with the Alliance of American Football's Memphis Express.

An introductory news conference was held Tuesday in Memphis for Manziel, who agreed over the weekend to join the new league. The former first-round draft pick out of Texas A&M dealt with a series of off-field issues during his stints in the NFL and CFL.

"My confidence level is high," Manziel said. "I believe I still have a unique skill set and still have the ability to play at any level anywhere."

Manziel's rights in the AAF belonged to the San Antonio Commanders, but they declined to sign him.

He was awarded through the league's waiver system to the Express, who have a league-worst 1-5 record.

He joins the spring league for its inaugural season less than a month after the CFL terminated his contract with the Montreal Alouettes. CFL officials also informed the league's other eight teams that they wouldn't register a contract for Manziel if any tried to sign him.

CFL Commissioner Randy Ambrosie said Manziel "had violated one of the conditions we had set for him to be in our league" without offering specifics. Manziel had sought treatment for anger management and alcohol abuse as part of his acquittal on a 2016 charge of domestic violence.

Express coach Mike Singletary was happy to take a chance on the guy who earned the nickname

"Johnny Football" while dazzling Southeastern Conference crowds with his combination of passing and running prowess.

"Our guys are excited, our team is excited and I feel that many of the people here in Memphis are excited," Singletary said.

Manziel said he is refocusing his life and believes playing football again will help.

"I've done a lot of soul searching and a lot of looking at myself in the mirror and coming to the realization that when I'm on a football field and on a team, my life is substantially better," he said.

Manziel went 2-6 as a starter with Montreal last season and completed 64.2 percent of his passes for 1,290 yards with five touchdowns and seven interceptions. He also ran for 215 yards on 29 carries.



**In this July 23, 2018, file photo, Montreal Alouettes quarterback Johnny Manziel speaks to the media after practice in Montreal.**  
**Associated Press**

His pro career began with the Cleveland Browns, who selected him with the 22nd overall pick in the 2014 draft. Manziel made two starts in 2014 and six more in 2015 before the Browns released him in March 2016. Manziel completed just 57 percent of his career pass attempts. He threw seven touchdown passes and seven interceptions. His arrival could boost a

Memphis team that has dealt with adversity at the quarterback position. Zach Mettenberger replaced Christian Hackenberg as the Express' starting QB early in the season. Mettenberger injured an ankle Saturday on the first play from scrimmage and was unable to return in the team's 22-9 loss at Salt Lake. He was replaced by Brandon Silvers. □



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## Nuggets clinch playoff spot with win over Celtics

By The Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Nikola Jokic had 21 points and 13 rebounds and the Denver Nuggets rallied in the fourth quarter to beat the Boston Celtics 114-105 on Monday night.

Will Barton added 20 points for the Nuggets, who clinched a playoff spot for the first time since 2012-13. They have won four straight.

Kyrie Irving led the Celtics with 30 points. Al Horford finished with 20 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Both teams came into the night trying to improve their playoff position.

The Nuggets tipped off their four-game road trip just a game behind Western Conference-leading Golden State in the standings. The Celtics came in fifth in the East, a game back of fourth-place Indiana and two behind Philadelphia, whom they visit on Wednesday.

**PELICANS 129, MAVERICKS 125, OT**

**DALLAS (AP)** — Dirk Nowitzki passed Wilt Chamberlain for sixth place on the NBA's career scoring list, but Elfrid Payton had his fifth straight triple-double to help New Orleans beat Dallas.

Payton finished with 19 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds. Dallas rookie Luka Doncic had a triple-double of his own with 29 points, 13 boards and 10 assists.

Julius Randle scored 11 of his 30 points in the final 3:29 of regulation, helping the Pelicans rally to force overtime. Nowitzki moved past Chamberlain (31,419 points) on one of his signature long-range jumpers with 8:35 remaining in the first quarter. The 40-year-old German took a feed from Doncic and backed down Kenrich Williams before turning and launching



Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki (41) takes a shot during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans in Dallas on Monday, March 18, 2019. Nowitzki became the NBA's sixth-leading scorer Monday night with another of his signature long-range jumpers.

Associated Press

from the top of the key. Entering the game needing four points to pass Chamberlain, Nowitzki started for the ninth time this season. He made his first two shots to end the suspense with a sellout crowd on its feet.

**SPURS 111, WARRIORS 105**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — DeMar DeRozan had 26 points and nine rebounds, LaMarcus Aldridge added 23 points and 13 rebounds and San Antonio beat Golden State for its ninth straight win.

San Antonio won its 11th straight at home and moved into fifth in the Western Conference at 42-29 following Oklahoma City's loss to Miami.

Stephen Curry had 25 points after a slow start and Kevin Durant added 24 for Golden State, which entered

the game having won two straight. The Warriors have dropped into a tie with Denver for first place in the West with matching 47-22 records.

There were nine ties in the intense matchup between the West's best and the league's hottest team.

The Warriors had to rally in the second half after a sluggish start.

Curry and Klay Thompson opened the game a combined 0 for 11, but the Warriors' defense allowed them to tie the game at 25 when Curry threw in a 61-footer to close the first quarter.

Thompson finished with 14 points.

**TRAIL BLAZERS 106, PACERS 98**

**PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)** — Damian Lillard had 30 points and 15 assists as Portland

beat Indiana without starting guard CJ McCollum.

Jusuf Nurkic added 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who led by as many as 21. Portland has won four of five and is holding onto fourth place in the Western Conference.

Myles Turner had 28 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, who missed out on clinching a playoff spot in the East. Indiana (44-27) has lost six straight on the road. The Blazers (43-27) won their 10th in a row against the Pacers in Portland. Portland was playing its first game minus McCollum, who injured his left knee in Saturday's loss at San Antonio. McCollum, who is averaging 21.3 points per game, has a popliteus strain and will be re-examined in a week, the team said. It isn't known whether he'll be back before the end of the regular season.

**JAZZ 116, WIZARDS 95**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Rudy Gobert had 14 points and 14 rebounds, Donovan Mitchell scored 19 and Utah won its fourth straight by beating Washington.

Gobert, the reigning Western Conference Player of the Week, was perfect from the field (6 of 6) for Utah, which started the night seventh in the West, one-half game behind San Antonio. Jae Crowder had 18 points while Joe Ingles had 16 points as the Jazz began a four-game trip by defeating Washington for the sixth straight time. Kyle Korver added 10 points off the bench, and Ricky Rubio had eight points and 10 assists. Jabari Parker led Washington with 19 points and Bradley Beal added 15 on just 4-of-12 shooting as the Wizards wrapped up a five-game homestand at 3-2. Beal had scored 40 points in each of the previ-

ous two games.

**HEAT 116, THUNDER 107**

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Goran Dragic had 26 points and 11 assists, Dwyane Wade added 25 points and Miami took advantage of Russell Westbrook's absence to beat Oklahoma City.

Kelly Olynyk added 18 points and nine rebounds for Miami, which entered the game in eighth place in the Eastern Conference. The Heat snapped a six-game losing streak against Oklahoma City, which has lost nine of its past 13 games to fall to sixth in the Western Conference.

Paul George scored 31 points with nine rebounds and Jerami Grant had 27 points and 10 rebounds for Oklahoma City. Dennis Schroder, who started in Westbrook's place, scored 20 points. Steven Adams had 10 points and 12 rebounds but was limited by foul trouble to 25 minutes.

**RAPTORS 128, KNICKS 92**

**TORONTO (AP)** — Jeremy Lin scored 20 points, Fred VanVleet had 13 points and 12 assists, and Toronto beat New York.

The victory came at a cost to the Raptors, who saw guard Kyle Lowry leave in the third quarter after suffering an injured right ankle. Lowry, who had 15 points and eight assists in 26 minutes, was back in the lineup after missing the previous two games because of a sore left ankle.

New York rookie center Mitchell Robinson collided with Lowry while chasing a loose ball at 5:15 of the third, falling onto Lowry's legs and taking the All-Star point guard down from behind. Lowry slapped the floor in pain and frustration before being helped to his feet and limping to the locker room. □



# AP source: Trout, Angels close to record \$432M, 12-year deal

By **RONALD BLUM**  
**AP Baseball Writer**

Mike Trout is on the verge of becoming baseball's first half-billion dollar man. Trout and the Los Angeles Angels are close to finalizing a \$432 million, 12-year contract that would shatter the record for the largest deal in North American sports history, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The deal was disclosed Tuesday by a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been finalized. The contract was likely to be announced by the end of this week, the person said. Trout would set a baseball record for career earnings at about \$513 million, surpassing the roughly \$448 million Alex Rodriguez took in with Seattle, Texas and the New York Yankees from 1994-2017. Trout's latest deal would top the new \$330 million, 12-year contract between Bryce Harper and the Philadelphia Phillies, and Trout's \$36 million average annual value would surpass pitcher Zack Greinke's \$34.4 million in a six-year deal with Arizona that started in 2016. The contract also would best Mexican boxer Canelo Alvarez's \$356 million deal with sports-streaming service DAZN.

Progress toward an agreement was first reported by ESPN.

Whether Trout's contract is the largest in the world for a team athlete is difficult to determine. Forbes estimated Lionel Messi earned \$84 million from Barcelona in 2017-18 and Cristiano Ronaldo \$61 million from Real Madrid, but precise details of their contracts are not known.

Trout's deal would include a signing bonus and supersede the \$144.5 million, six-year contract that had been set to pay him \$33.25 million in each of the next two seasons.

While the marketplace has been slow for many players this offseason, prompting complaints from the players' association, top stars have gained robust deals. Four of the largest seven contracts will have been agreed to since Feb. 19, with Trout and Harper joined by Manny Machado (\$300 million for 10 years with San Diego) and Nolan Arenado (\$260 million for eight years with Colorado). Los Angeles selected Trout with the 25th overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft, and he signed for a bonus of \$1,215,000. He made his major league debut on July 8, 2011.

A 27-year-old entering what should be his prime years, Trout is considered baseball's top player and



In this April 3, 2017, file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout celebrates after hitting a two-run home run off Oakland Athletics' Kendall Graveman in the third inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif.

would have been coveted as a free agent after the 2020 season. He lives in southern New Jersey, and Harper said he was excited about trying to recruit Trout to join him in Philadelphia. Although Trout recently built a home in his native Millville, New Jersey, he is staying on the West Coast with the Angels, who are coming off three straight losing seasons and haven't won a playoff game during his career.

Trout and wife Jessica have made no secret of how much they enjoy liv-

ing in laid-back Southern California, and the low-key outfielder decided to skip the pressure free agency entirely. Trout has been an All-Star in each of his seven full big league seasons and hit .312 with 39 homers, 79 RBIs, 24 steals and 122 walks last year. He led the major leagues in OPS in each of the last two seasons.

Trout has a .307 average with 240 homers, 648 RBIs, 189 steals and 693 walks in eight big league seasons. He was voted AL Rookie of the Year in 2012, won the AL MVP award in 2014 and

'16 and finished second in MVP voting four times, tying the record shared by Stan Musial, Ted Williams and Albert Pujols.

Big-money deals have not worked out for the Angels in the past. Pujols agreed to a \$240 million, 10-year deal before the 2012 season but has not matched his previous performance with St. Louis. Josh Hamilton signed a \$125 million, five-year contract before the 2013 season and contributed just 31 homers and 123 RBIs in two years with the Angels. □

Associated Press

## Roglic wins Tirreno-Adriatico by 1 second from Yates

**SAN BENEDETTO DEL TRONTO, Italy (AP)** — Primož Roglic of Slovenia won the Tirreno-Adriatico cycling race by one second when he beat British rider Adam Yates in the final-stage time trial on Tuesday. Victor Campenaerts won the 10-kilometer (six-mile) individual time trial in San Benedetto del Tronto. Roglic, who rides for Team Jumbo-Visma, started the time trial in second place in the overall standings, 25 seconds behind Yates. "It was unbelievably close. I was lucky in the end," Roglic said. "I felt strong ... I tried to make a difference

and really go for it and I really pushed until the finish line.

"I was confident but I can only control myself."

Yates had been in the lead of the race since the second of the seven stages, while his Mitchelton-Scott team had won the opening-day team time trial.

"It was close, but it wasn't enough, that's how it goes, that's bike racing," Yates said.

"I did the best I could, I said yesterday that 25 seconds isn't really enough. But I did a good TT, I'll have to look back but I think the power was good and I held my

position for as long as I could.

"There wasn't much more I could do, the strongest man won, but for sure next year I'll be back and hopefully I can come back stronger."

Jakob Fuglsang of Denmark finished third overall, 30 seconds behind Roglic and nearly a minute ahead of Tom Dumoulin.

Campenaerts won the final stage in 11-plus minutes.

Alberto Bettiol was three seconds behind the Belgian.

Jos van Emden of the Netherlands was four seconds back. □



Slovenian rider Primož Roglic celebrates on the podium after winning the 54th Tirreno Adriatico cycling race, in San Benedetto del Tronto, central Italy, Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Associated Press





## Isner returns to scene of 1st Masters 1000 title in Miami

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

**MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)** — When John Isner first got to town for his Miami Open title defense, he went for a practice session at the old tournament site in Key Biscayne instead of the new location at the stadium used by the NFL's Dolphins.

It wasn't that he wasn't sure where to go, of course. Nor was he trying to soak up the good vibes at the place where he won an ATP Masters 1000 trophy for the first time. "It was just about convenience. Close to my hotel. I just wanted to break a sweat and went out there. It was pretty weird, actually. Kind of quiet. The place still has its allure to it, but it definitely seems different," Isner said Tuesday. "We're all used to pulling into that parking lot and the place is bustling. Wasn't like that."

There wasn't much bustle at the new-look Miami Open on the initial day of scheduled main-draw play, which was completely wiped out because of rain throughout Tuesday.

They'll try again to get started Wednesday; No. 9 Isner and other seeded men such as Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer won't play before Friday thanks to first-round byes.

Isner, 10-6 this season, arrived at the hard-court tournament in 2018 with a 1-6 mark. He proceeded to win six matches in a row, three against men ranked in the top six. "I do know that, look, odds are, I probably won't defend this title," he said with a chuckle after touring the Humane Society of Greater Miami with Alexander Zverev, the runner-up at the Miami Open a year ago. "At the same time, it is cool coming back as the defending champion of a tournament of this magnitude. Never been in this situation before. Just looking forward to it. No pressure. I don't look at it as, 'Oh, I'm going to lose a bunch of points.' You can't look at it like that. It's just another tournament you want to do well in."

Isner says his performance in Florida gave him a boost that helped him later in the season, including his semifinal showing at Wimbledon in July, the best he'd ever done at a Grand Slam tournament.

So did that carry over into this season, too?

"Unfortunately, I feel like it has a shelf life," said Isner, who lost to Reilly Opelka in an all-American matchup in the first round of the Australian Open in January. "Every player is different, but I feel like, for me, when you start the new year, everything is reset. Even if you played fantastic at the end of the year last year, you have two months off, and everything resets." □



Charles Howell III, left, walks off the 17th green after making a putt during the third round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament Saturday, March 9, 2019, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

## PGA Tour

Continued from Page 18

Migliozzi received 24 ranking points, the minimum for the European Tour.

It's like that just about every week somewhere in the world. It's been like that for the better part of 20 years. The Official World Golf Ranking tries to measure golfers from 20 tours around the world, from the PGA Tour to the Nordic Golf League. It's an impossible task that the OWGR, which dates to 1986, has largely gotten right. Or at least close enough.

The question is whether that's good enough.

"The world ranking has the first 35 to 40 correct," said Charles Howell III, who in February returned to the top 50 in the world for the first time in 11 years. "I'm not saying I should have been there, or that any other player should have been there. I'm saying that the world ranking is so darn important that No. 40 through 100 ... you've got to get that right."

"If world events and majors have entry based on the world ranking, then it better be an accurate, good system."

Augusta National is two weeks away from awarding a Masters invitation to the top 50 in the world. In late May, the world ranking determines who gets in the U.S. Open (top 60) and British Open (top 50).

The PGA Tour has heard enough complaints from enough players and their managers that after meeting with the OWGR board last summer, it commissioned a study by a pair of mathematicians that revealed what many already suspected about the allocation of points around the world. It's not that PGA Tour events are not getting enough ranking points, but that other tours are getting too many.

According to two people in a meeting last week at the TPC Sawgrass, the tour wants the OWGR board to conduct its own analysis to see if the results are similar. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the PGA Tour has not commented publicly on the study.

The tour has a seat on the OWGR board, as do other tours. Does it matter that winning the Kenya Open was equal to fourth place at The Players Championship? Not yet. Migliozzi moved up 377 spots to No. 199. But it mattered to Justin Harding, a 33-year-old South African who finished in a three-way tie for second at the Kenya Open and moved up four spots to No. 48 in the world, giving him a reasonable shot at getting into the Masters. Harding has won five times over the last 10 months — twice in South Africa, twice in Asia, once on the Eu-

ropean Tour in the Qatar Masters. Points are determined by who is playing any given week. The No. 1 player in the field is worth 45 points, with 37 points for No. 2 player, all the way down to two points for players from No. 81 to 100, and one point for everyone from No. 101 through 200. There is also a "home tour" bonus.

The Players Championship had 882 points. The Kenya Open had 17 points. The field points for Harding's five wins were 5, 7, 12, 5 and 61.

"It needs work. It needs a lot of work," said Brooks Koepka, who speaks from the experience of having started on the Challenge Tour in 2012, worked his way to the European Tour, then the PGA Tour and eventually reached No. 1 in the world last year.

Throw out the majors and the World Golf Championships, and the average ranking points for PGA Tour winners last year was nearly 19 points more than Europe. And it figures to get stronger. Ten years ago, the PGA Tour had 39 of the top 50 players in the world to start the year. It had 46 of the top 50 to start this year.

The concern might be making the PGA Tour so strong that it's hard for players from around the world to advance unless they all came to America. □



# Lightning top Coyotes to clinch Presidents' Trophy, home ice

**By The Associated Press**  
**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — Steven Stamkos scored his 36th goal of the season and the Tampa Bay Lightning clinched the Presidents' Trophy with a 4-1 victory over the Arizona Coyotes on Monday night. The Lightning, who have 116 points, will have home-ice advantage throughout the Stanley Cup playoffs. Stamkos became the franchise leader in goals with his 384th. Victor Hedman added his 10th goal of the season and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 28 shots. Anthony Cirelli scored his fifth short-handed goal of the season while Yanni Gourde notched his 20th goal of the season. Clayton Keller scored for Arizona, which remains one point ahead of Minnesota for the final wild-card spot in the Western Conference. Darcy Kuemper finished with 20 saves. Stamkos' record-breaking goal was scored at 6:54 of the first period as Stamkos, battling in front of the Arizona net, got his stick on Ryan McDonagh's shot and deflected the puck past Kuemper. The goal came in the 737th game for Stamkos and broke the tie with former

captain Vinny Lecavalier, who set the record in 1,037 games with Tampa Bay from 1998-2013.  
**GOLDEN KNIGHTS 7, SHARKS 3**  
**SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)** — Reilly Smith and Jonathan Marchessault each had four points and Vegas won for the ninth time in 10 games by beating San Jose. In a possible playoff preview, Vegas moved within seven points of the Sharks with nine games to play in the race for home-ice advantage in the first round of the playoffs. San Jose remains one point behind Pacific Division-leading Calgary, with the Flames holding a game in hand. The Sharks dropped their third straight home game in regulation for the first time in three years as they failed once again with an opportunity to clinch a playoff berth. Logan Couture scored twice and Joe Thornton had a goal for San Jose. Martin Jones allowed three goals on 11 shots before being replaced by Aaron Dell in the first period.  
**JETS 3, KINGS 2**  
**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kyle Connor had a goal and an assist to lead Winnipeg over Los Angeles.



Tampa Bay Lightning right wing Nikita Kucherov (86) congratulates center Steven Stamkos (91) on his first-period goal during an NHL hockey game against the Arizona Coyotes, Monday, March 18, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Kevin Hayes and Tyler Myers also scored for the Jets, who have a three-point lead on Nashville atop the Central Division. Laurent Brossoit made 15 saves. Sean Walker and Dustin Brown had the goals for the Kings. Jack Campbell stopped 25 shots. Los Angeles, which has dropped six of seven and 15 of 18, was eliminated

from playoff contention. At 58 points, the Kings are last in the Western Conference.  
**CANUCKS 3, BLACKHAWKS 2, OT**  
**CHICAGO (AP)** — Bo Horvat scored 16 seconds into overtime, and Vancouver stopped Chicago's five-game win streak with a victory over the Blackhawks. Alexander Edler and Markus Granlund also scored for

Vancouver, which was coming off a 3-2 shootout victory in Dallas on Sunday. Thatcher Demko made 29 saves in his third career win. The Canucks (31-32-10) pulled within six points of Arizona for the second wild card in the jumbled bottom of the Western Conference. They begin a seven-game homestand on Wednesday night against Ottawa. □

Associated Press

# Stanley Cup champion Capitals to visit Trump at White House



In this June 12, 2018, file photo, Washington Capitals' Alex Ovechkin, of Russia, holds up the Stanley Cup trophy during the NHL hockey team's Stanley Cup victory celebration at the National Mall in Washington.

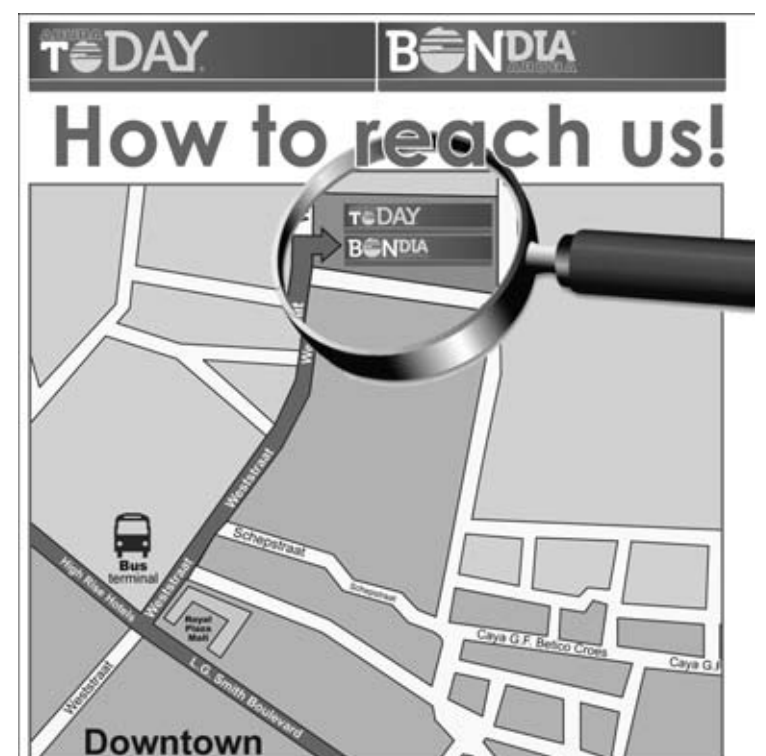
**By STEPHEN WHYNO**  
**AP Hockey Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Alex Ovechkin and the Washington Capitals will get a chance to celebrate their Stanley Cup championship with President Donald

Trump at the White House on Monday. The Russian-born captain and playoff MVP and his teammates are continuing the NHL tradition of visiting the sitting president after some recent champions in

other leagues have chosen not to. "I'm looking forward (to it)," Ovechkin said in June after winning the Cup. "I can't wait. I never been there. I want to take pictures around it. It will be fun." A White House spokesman confirmed the visit to The Associated Press on Tuesday. The Capitals are Washington's first champions in the four major North American sports leagues since the NFL's Redskins in 1992, also the last hometown pro team to visit the White House. This visit has political undertones given that special counsel Robert Mueller is looking into whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia and whether the president obstructed the investigation.

Ovechkin has been a vocal supporter of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and

fellow countrymen Evgeny Kuznetsov and Dmitry Orlov are also on the team. □







## Dr. Viana

**In the past they would kill the messenger who delivered news that king did not want to hear. Tough job, fortunately, this doesn't happen today. Or does it? With the declaration of helping patients, doctors try to eliminate your body signs (messages) with drugs. When consulting an allopathic doctor the first thing investigated is to see if you have a disease. If not, they may test your blood and identify values that they think will cause a disease. With higher than normal cholesterol numbers, cholesterol lowering drugs are frequently prescribed. Is this the best thing to do? Could it be that the remedy may be worse than the disease?**

Cholesterol lowering drugs, known as statins are prov-

ing to be killers. Documents indicate some senior executives of German pharmaceutical maker Bayer, knew its anti-cholesterol drug Baycol was causing illness and death long before pulling it off the market. It produces a side effect called rhabdomyolysis which causes severe pain and muscle weakness. Serious cases can shut down the kidneys and cause paralysis or death. During other drug studies, test patients have committed suicide. In fact, suicide is a stated possible risk from taking cholesterol lowering medicine. Why? Lipoproteins, which are attached to cholesterol, provide a means by which toxins including, heavy metals, solvent toxins, pesticides, and petro-chemicals can be removed from your brain and

# Cholesterol, the Good and the Bad

nerves. As cholesterol falls, less lipoproteins are available lowering your body's ability to remove these poisons.

For natural physicians, cholesterol is not bad. Hydroxy sterols are found in both animal and plant life. Cholesterol, a complicated form of alcohol is the main sterol of higher life forms. With the exception of brain and red blood cells, all cells in your body are capable of synthesizing or producing cholesterol. Cholesterol provides strength for cell walls; a way to use other sterols and every day, cholesterol is converted into bile acid, which helps protect from and dissolve gall stones.

In your blood stream cholesterol contains lipoproteins. These proteins carry antioxidants such as vitamin E, beta carotene, and CoQ10 that help protect you from cancer. When cholesterol is naturally low or forced low with drugs, cancer risks rises because protection is reduced.

When a clinical nutritionist sees a high test value for cholesterol we look to see what caused your body to increase cholesterol to help protect your brain and nerves. If fat-soluble poisons are present, changing what you do or don't eat can help remove these "bad fats." With the poison gone, cells stop making ex-

cess cholesterol for protection.

So what don't we eat? Don't eat sugar, especially alcohol or any of the growing number of products with high fructose corn syrup. Stop all fried, salty, refined or processed foods, fatty dairy products or fatty meats. When we tell patients this, many tell us we have just eliminated everything they eat. In fact we have just described the Standard American or Aruban Diet (SAD).

Ok, what do we eat? Fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, but not pork, whole grains like brown rice oats or quinoa, a Peruvian supergrain. Wheat is not the best choice for many people because of allergies and gluten intolerance. Fish that swim constantly in deep water are loaded with "good" HDL cholesterol which is needed to manufacture some very wonderful hormones, like sex hormones. Medicinal oils packed with HDL include: olive, evening primrose, black currant, flax, safflower and soy. Herbs that lower LDL/triglycerides (bad cholesterol) are Shiitake mushrooms, cayenne, ginger, cat's claw, garlic and turmeric.

"Good cholesterol" producing foods which include essential fatty acids (EFA) rich in Omega 3, 6 and 9 in the correct proportions

have changed with modern diets. Most of us are not getting enough Omega 3's and some of us are not getting enough of omega 3 and 6. Supplementing with Flax oil or Omega fish oils is more important than ever. Lecithin is good oil I consider a basic, especially for protecting the brain. Make sure you only use fish oils certified to be free of toxins like Mercury.

Eat smaller meals, especially before bed. While you sleep, the stomach also sleeps and food does not digest properly. Want to get all this under control quickly? Eat only brown rice for three weeks. Nothing else! Include lots of water and moderate exercise. It's always best to do a cleansing diet like this with the supervision of a clinical nutritionist.

Get the point! Not all cholesterol is bad. Cholesterol lowering drugs and their known side effects are not the only choice. We need good cholesterol to protect our brains and nerves. Changes in diet and lifestyle can naturally help control not only "bad" cholesterol, but you might find improvement with symptoms of high blood pressure, arthritis, and diabetes. Call us for a full evaluation of the good and the bad of your health. Let us teach you how to turn the "ugly" into "beautiful!" □

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# Millennial Money: How to stem 'subscription creep'

By GREGORY KARP  
NerdWallet

Associated Press

From Netflix, Spotify and Amazon Prime to Blue Apron, Birchbox and beer of the month, your debit or credit card statements are likely littered with subscriptions that are costing you dearly.

Not that all subscriptions are bad. You might be happy to pay a monthly fee to work out at the gym or type in Microsoft Office 365. But maybe the benefits of subscribing to credit monitoring or razors by mail were, uh, more fleeting.

Recurring charges can be insidious, some eating away at your wealth when you don't value the subscription anymore. Three \$30-per-month subscriptions don't sound like much until you realize they total nearly \$1,100 per year.

Inertia leads to a dozen free trials morphing into mainstays on your Mastercard. (Maybe not much longer, though. Mastercard has said it will require merchants to get your approval to proceed with charges after a free trial ends, although it applies only to physical-product subscriptions, like home-delivered sampler boxes.) "The situation with subscriptions could end up being death by a thousand cuts when it comes to your budget," says Bruce McClary, spokesman for the National Foundation for Credit Counseling.

Adding to the problem are so-called gray charges, deceptive and unwanted credit and debit card charges that stem from misleading sales and billing practices. They total more than \$14 billion a year among U.S. cardholders, or \$215 each, per a 2013 study by industry research firm Aite Group.

Here's how to spring-clean recurring charges so you can spend on things that matter to you more.

—SUBSCRIPTION AUDIT. Job No. 1 is to identify recurring charges. Scan recent payment statements, including credit cards, debit cards or online accounts, like Pay-



In this Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, file photo, a person displays Netflix on a tablet in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

Pal. Go back 12 months to catch auto-renew annual subscriptions. Don't ignore the analog world: lawn mowing, home security monitoring, pest-control service and memberships in social and professional organizations. Some credit card issuers, like Citi, identify recurring charges in your online account.

—MULTIPLY BY 12. A frog in a stovetop pot of water will complacently boil to death if you raise the temperature slowly, the saying goes. Accumulating monthly subscriptions is similar. To feel the full impact, multiply monthly charges by 12 to get an annualized idea of what you're spending. If you see yourself keeping the subscription five years, do that math too. Then, a seemingly insignificant \$30-per-month expense becomes

\$1,800.

"On the surface, subscription costs may seem minimal, but when you add them up it can really pinch your monthly budget," says Paul Golden, spokesman for the National Endowment for Financial Education. "If you're putting subscriptions on your credit

card, is that hindering your ability to pay off your balance each month? If so, this is a red flag."

—REASSESS VALUE. Do you use and value the subscription? A gym membership is perhaps the best example of a noble subscription gone wrong — when you quit going but continue paying. Ask yourself if a subscription saves you money or time. Has it lived up to its promise? Does a delivered subscription box bring you joy or guilt?

"It's a good idea to do a subscription evaluation on a regular basis — perhaps a couple of times a year," Golden says.

—IS IT REDUNDANT? If you have cable or satellite TV, plus Netflix, YouTube TV and Amazon Prime Video, you have overlap. "There are so many redundancies across those platforms that you're more or less paying

for the same service over and over again," McClary says.

The same assessment goes for streaming music services, cloud storage and phone services. Are you hanging on to a landline for no reason?

—OPT TO SHARE. Can you legitimately share a subscription? "Some of these subscriptions offer a buddy pass," McClary notes. YouTube TV allows family groups to share subscriptions, and certain New York Times subscriptions come with a bonus subscription to share. Some families choose to group their wireless phones on a single plan to lower costs.

Don't forget about freebies at your local public library, which can substitute for subscriptions: digital access to books, audiobooks, movies, music and magazines. □

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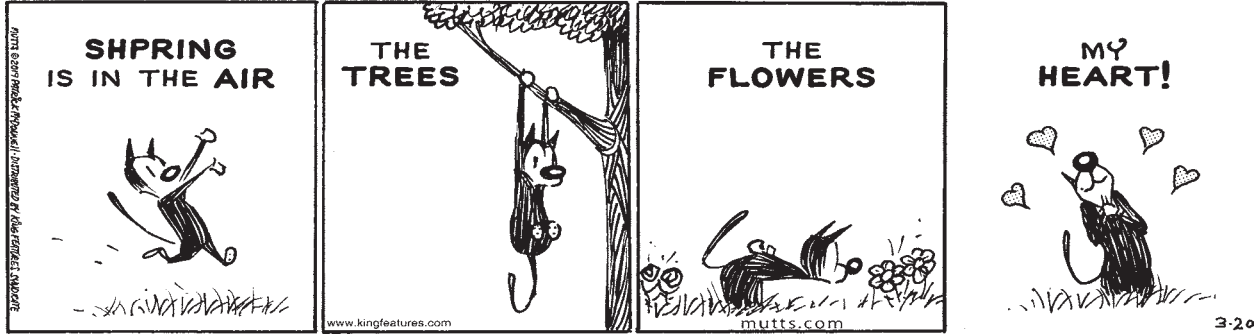
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## Mutts



## 6 Chix



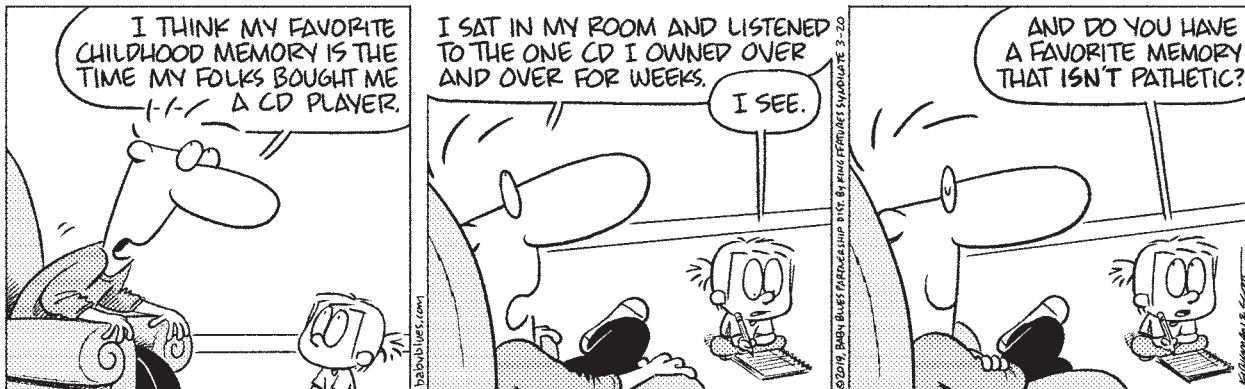
## Blondie



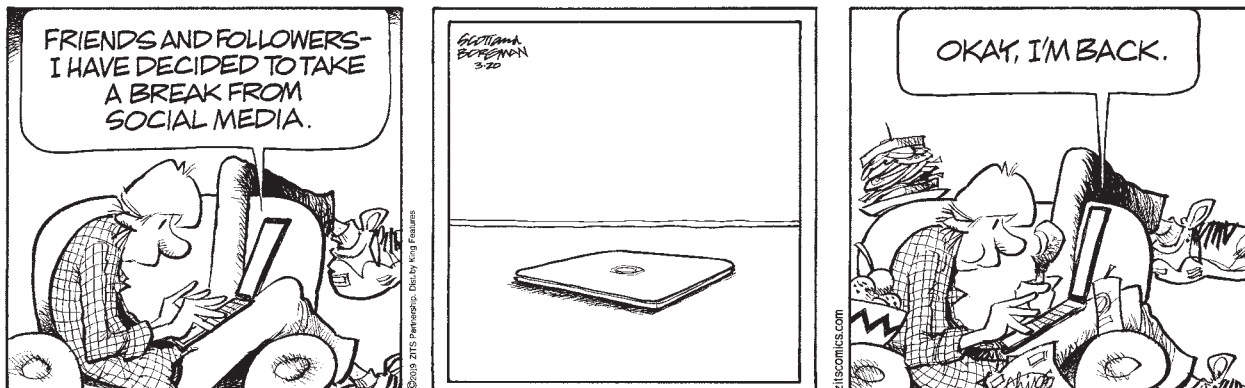
## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

					3	5	1	
				9				
	3	9	4		5	8	2	
9	1			5			6	3
6								8
5								4
3								1
	9					8		
		7	3	6	2	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★

3/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

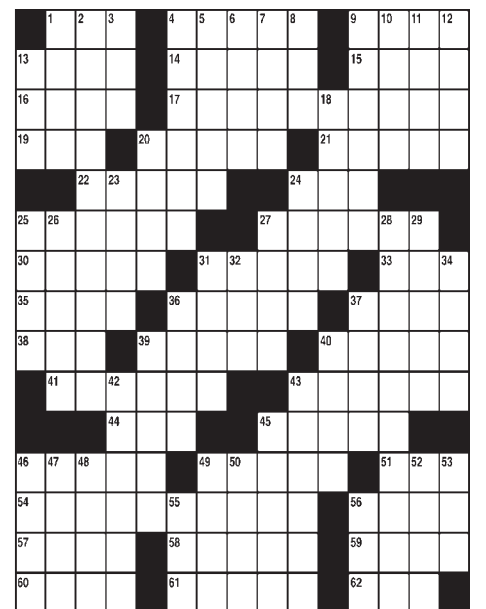
6	5	4	1	9	7	3	2	8
3	2	7	6	5	8	9	4	1
8	1	9	4	2	3	5	7	6
1	8	3	9	6	2	7	5	4
9	4	6	7	3	5	8	1	2
2	7	5	8	1	4	6	9	3
5	6	2	3	7	1	4	8	9
4	3	1	5	8	9	2	6	7
7	9	8	2	4	6	1	3	5

## ACROSS

- Handle clumsily
- Male animals
- Demonstrate
- Fictional captain
- ...cotta; Chia pet material
- Dad
- Game broadcaster
- Catches again
- Homer Simpson's remark
- "Sweet \_\_\_ from Pike"
- Amphitheater
- Word with coffee or setter
- Source of light & heat
- Things done routinely
- Neighbor of Colorado
- Wonderland visitor
- Kick out
- Word in 4 U.S. state names
- Cranny; recess
- On the \_\_\_; not working right
- Actress Plato
- Wildbeest
- Musical group
- Plum or purple
- Prose writings
- Starving
- To each \_\_\_ own
- Rudely brief
- Bricklayer
- "Been \_\_\_ done that"
- Sault \_\_\_ Marie
- Honest
- One not to be trusted
- Classic board game
- Blazing
- Unpleasant
- \_\_\_ out; betray
- King or emperor
- 180° from WNW

## DOWN

- Colombia's dollar
- Able to live on land or in water
- Was victorious
- Tension
- Fangs



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/20/19

## Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	T	O	A	S	O	L	D	S	H	A	W
E	A	R	L	P	L	U	T	O	T	A	M	E
C	H	A	D	P	E	R	S	E	C	U	T	E
H	U	N	F	E	E	S	O	P	E	N	S	
S	T	R	A	P				R	H	O		
E	T	C	H	E	R			H	E	A	R	S
S	H	R	E	D				G	L	E	A	N
P	A	I	N	T	R	I	A	L		M	E	M
Y	I	P	S	H	I	E	R		C	A	P	E
S	T	R	E	E	T			B	E	L	F	R
								E	W	E		
A	T	O	N	E				P	E	A	L	T
R	I	V	E	R	B	O	A	T	S		C	H
C	R	E	W		I	N	L	E	T	S	E	N
H	E	N	S		B	E	E	R	S		I	R

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3/20/19

- Knotts & Rickles
- Actor Michael
- Remedy
- Digger's need
- Cattleman, often
- Haute, IN
- Computers, for many
- Isn't \_\_\_ to; can't
- Aretha's music
- Health nut's lunch, perhaps
- "\_\_\_ Mary, full of grace..."
- \_\_\_ away; subtract
- Suffix for cream or crock
- Saloon
- Recline



# Classifieds

## Halley Time Travel

### Divi Village

Sunday Check in building F  
1 BR WK # 8 & 9 Same room  
rd floor with 21 and 25 weeks  
remain  
on the contract \$7500 Each

### Divi Links Golf

Saturday Check in Eagle 15  
1BR WK 8 & 9 with 27  
weeks remain \$9000 each  
Eagle Resorts & Casino  
1 Br WK 7 Ground floor \$5500

### Divi Village

Building C Elevator  
2 BR WK 13 \$14K  
3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated  
weeks remain  
Divi Village  
Building C  
1 BR WK #14 \$7500  
1st floor with 16 weeks remain

### La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in  
1 BR WK 11 & 12 \$18 K Both  
weeks  
4th floor pool/ocean view

### Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum Weeks  
1 BR Ocean View \$12 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$28 K

### Marriott Surf Club

Platinum  
2 BR Garden View \$15 K  
2 BR Ocean View \$16 K  
2 BR Ocean Side \$17 K  
2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K  
3 BR Ocean View \$27 K

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Building 7 3rd floor  
34 weeks remain \$15 K

### Dutch Village

Studio wk # 9  
building 13 on the 2sd floor  
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Red Cross	582 2219

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### March 20

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# Asia bracing for destruction by alien pest: fall armyworms

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH**  
AP Business Writer  
**THA MUANG, Thailand**  
(AP) —

Fall armyworms, a longtime American pest, are munching their way around the globe, raising alarm now in Asia after entrenching themselves in Africa.

Experts say the insect was first found outside the Americas in 2016, in Africa, where it has infested up to half of some crops of maize, sorghum and millet. It's now spread through Yemen and South Asia to Thailand and China.

This new arrival to her territory worries Uraporn Nounart, a specialist on farm pests at Thailand's Agriculture Department.

"We never had this one before. They just were found late last year and in January in this area. It's a big problem," she said while visiting farms recently in Kanchanaburi province, northwest of Bangkok.

The worms can cause damage at all stages of a corn crop, but the worst may be when the larvae, pinky-sized caterpillars turn sweet corn cobs to mush. The incursions of the alien species threaten to upend the balance between costs and returns for farmers in Thailand and elsewhere. Pesticides are costly, toxic and don't always work.

In its native regions, from Argentina to northern Canada depending on the season, the bug's natural enemies — predators, parasites and pathogens such as bacteria or viruses — help keep it in check. But the new habitats may lack some of those defenses, the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization says. It's convening a conference in Bangkok this



In this March 13, 2019, photo, above, a field expert at Thailand's agriculture ministry, shows the fall armyworm in Tha Muang, Thailand. In this March 13, 2019, photo, Uraporn Nounart, right, a field expert at Thailand's agriculture ministry, points to plants affected by the fall armyworm in Tha Muang, Thailand.

Associated Press

In this March 13, 2019, photo, Uraporn Nounart, a field expert at Thailand's agriculture ministry, points to plants affected by the fall armyworm in Tha Muang, Thailand.

Associated Press

week to help share information and strategies on battling the pest.

Keeping it in check is an urgent priority: Even though Asia is mostly known for rice growing, maize is an important staple crop and crucial source of feed for poultry and livestock.

In the cornfields in Kanchanaburi, there were armyworms in all stages of the crop, from seedlings to knee-high to "elephant's eye" high.

Some local farmers were



working hard to limit their losses by pulling the tops off stalks grown for baby corn and discarding them to limit how much damage the worms could do. That tactic causes the plant to sprout new ears that can be harvested later. Organic farmers don't use the usual farm chemicals so they can sell the waste corn stalks as cattle fodder. Spraying with bio-materials like fungi and thread worms that may be parasites of the worms can help, but some fields still lost about a third of the first baby corn harvest.

"We've never seen anything like this," said one farmer, Sanae.

In another field, Thanwa, a younger farmer, sought help and had his fields sprayed using drones. For taller plants, that's about the only way for the small-scale farmers to get pesti-

cides up onto the affected parts of the plant once the worms are established.

Swaddled against the burning sun, Uraporn Nounart and her team of young scientists scrambled through the fields, peeking into corn husks and pulling apart damaged stalks to collect worms and eggs for monitoring. They're conducting trials in fields like the one Sanae was working her way through, a tranquil plot of waist-high corn ringed by banana trees. Charuwat Taekul, an entomologist at the Department of Agriculture who specializes in microscopic parasitic wasps, was collecting egg clusters to use in his research into natural enemies of the worms. It's unclear if such wasps would be effective in keeping the fall armyworms under control, but it's one of various strate-

gies being considered.

"Putting into place adequate management measures once a country gets invaded by FAW is important," said Marjon Fredrix, an expert with the U.N.'s FAO based in Bangkok. "However, the likelihood of further spread is real."

She notes that the worm's adult moths can fly more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) a night, even farther if they're carried by the wind.

The best case scenario, says Fredrix, would be farmers successfully scouting for and finding the worms early on, so they can keep them under control. The FAO has developed an app that teaches the basics of how to find and deal with fall armyworms.

"This new pest needs to be managed in years to come, and farmers will need to develop skills to do so in a sustainable manner," Fredrix said.

The help came a bit too late for Yodsapon, a farmer in Tha Muang. He follows Uraporn's team stoically as it winds its way through his wrecked field of sweet corn.

At first glance, the 2-meter-high (6.5-foot-high) stalks look vigorous, with good-sized ears that are nearly picking size. But a closer look shows holes in the stalks where the worms have worked their way inside, munching ear after ear into yellowish brown mush.

The family has other sources of income, a small eco-hostel set in their tropical garden. But income from that is unstable, and the corn crop will be missed, Yodsapon says.

He's thinking hard about what to do next: switch to another crop? Cassava? Potato?

A good harvest from the field would have netted 2,000-3,000 baht (\$65-\$100), he says. He expects no income from this one, and spraying repeatedly to try to vanquish the worm could triple his costs.

"In that case, I can't afford it," he says.

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# Jordan Peele dares everyone to look at the horrors of 'Us'

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Jordan Peele's sweet spot as a filmmaker are the "pit in your stomach" moments. That thing that happens when you realize the woman stirring the tea isn't just there for conversation. When you notice that the help is a little off. Or, as in his new film "Us," when you see that the family of four

standing in your driveway late at night looks exactly like you.

Peele knows how to get under your skin and stay there, and it's what made him the must-see horror filmmaker of the moment. "Us," out nationwide Friday, is only his second and yet it's been an event-in-the-making ever since it was announced. That's what happens when your



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Lupita Nyong'o in a scene from "Us," written, produced and directed by Jordan Peele.

Associated Press

debut is "Get Out." "Get Out" wasn't even finished when the former sketch-comedian started cooking up the idea for his follow-up about doppelgängers, loosely inspired by the "Twilight Zone" episode "Mirror Image." Then the wild success of "Get Out" — four Oscars nominations, one win (Peele for original screenplay), over \$255 million in tickets sold against a \$4.5 million budget, and general cultural impact — put Peele on another level. So by the time Universal Pictures agreed to make "Us," not only did he have a budget over five times higher than his first, but he had his pick of collaborators too.

"Because of 'Get Out' I was privileged enough to be able to tap the best talent in the industry," Peele said recently.

That goes for stars Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke, who play dual roles as the nuclear American family, the Wilsons, and the terrifying red jumpsuit-wearing and gold scissor-wielding Red and Abraham, as well as the below-the-line talent: Production designer Ruth De Jong ("Twin Peaks"); cinematographer Mike Gioulakis ("It Follows"); and costume designer Kym Barrett ("The Matrix") among them.

"I had an amazing team

on 'Get Out,'" Peele said. "But this group sort of allowed me to stretch a little bit more."

Duke was impressed by his calm. He knew there were "sophomore pressures" — he had his own set following his breakout role in "Black Panther" — but said Peele never brought any of that to set.

"Day one, (Peele) said, 'Before we do anything I just want to let you guys know that I'm here for you. I won't stop until we get the shot. When I say cut, we got the shot. So trust me, believe in me,'" Duke said. "And I was like, that's all I need."

Duke and Nyong'o already had a short hand working together.

Yes, they had just both been in "Black Panther," but they were also Yale Drama School graduates and have seen one another do everything from clown work to Chekov.

"It was great to be able to perform with someone who I value as much more than a friend — I value her as a cohort. I value her as an ally. I went to work every day trying to make sure we could create a space where she could excel. I thought that was my duty," Duke said. "We had a female lead and in our climate in Hollywood we were doing the work and

leading by example."

And Peele put them both through the wringer. The days on set as the Wilsons were full of laughter and fun. But the days as the murderous doppelgängers known as The Tethered, Peele said, felt like "a morgue."

"The air getting sucked out of the room is an understatement. But it was kind of cool," Peele said. The actors went "pretty method" on those days.

Nyong'o had it especially hard. She'd chosen to affect a strained vocal condition — spasmodic dysphonia — to make Red even more haunting. And she had to do Red's first big monologue 11 times with that raspy, painful sounding voice.

"Us" is chock full of pop culture references, subtle and overt: A "Jaws" t-shirt here, a C.H.U.D. VHS there. Even the setting, the Santa Cruz boardwalk, is a callback to "The Lost Boys." And every reference works "on two different levels and hopefully more," Peele said. But don't stress if you don't catch or decipher them all. "There are many of these things that only I will ever know," Peele revealed.

Although one thing is not really up for interpretation: The genre. He tweeted the other day that "'Us' is a horror movie." □

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**FIVE FEET APART**  
MON-THU 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15  
FRI 4:15 | 6:45 | 9:15 | 11:45  
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BRIANNA DENSKI | JENNIFER GARNER  
**WONDER PARK**  
MON-THU 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40  
FRI 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40 | 10:35  
SAT 1:00 | 2:55 | 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40 | 10:35  
SUN 1:00 | 2:55 | 4:50 | 6:45 | 8:40 [PG]

DIRECTED BY PETER JACKSON  
**THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD**  
MON-FRI 3:50 | 6:00  
SAT-SUN 1:40 | 3:50 | 6:00 [R]

BRIE LARSON | SAMUEL L. JACKSON  
**CAPTAIN MARVEL**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THU & SUN 8:10  
FRI-SAT 8:10 | 10:50  
**CXC**  
MON-THU 6:00 | 8:20  
FRI 6:00 | 8:20 | 11:20  
SAT 3:20 | 6:00 | 8:20 | 11:20  
SUN 3:20 | 6:00 | 8:20  
**CARIBBEAN CINEMAS VIP**  
MON-THU 3:55 | 4:45 | 6:35 | 7:25 | 9:20  
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SUN 1:15 | 2:05 | 3:55 | 4:45 | 6:35 | 7:25 | 9:20 | 10:10 [PG-13]

TYLER PERRY | CASSI DAVIS  
**A MADEA FAMILY FUNERAL**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
MON-THU & SUN 6:50 | 9:10  
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GERARD BUTLER | CATE BLANCHETT  
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR  
**DRAGON**  
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES  
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# A rough journey to new music for Jenny Lewis

By DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Life hasn't been easy for singer Jenny Lewis since the sunnier days when she performed in support of a 2014 album while wearing a rainbow-hued pantsuit and carrying a guitar with similar bright colors.

Her mother died, and a 12-year relationship ended, sending Lewis on a cross-country journey in search of herself. Finally, with a new album finished and awaiting a Friday release, she's had to deal with the uncomfortable story of occasional collaborator Ryan Adams' alleged mistreatment of women.

Spending much of the upcoming year on tour may seem like a relief.

The up-tempo songs "Red Bull & Hennessy" and "Heads Gonna Roll" from her "On the Line" album, with Lewis' unerring sense of tunefulness, will get the initial attention. But the work's emotional core emerges in quieter, more introspective material like "Dogwood," "Rabbit Hole" and "Taffy." Those are the songs that will stick.

Much of the material was written in stolen moments on borrowed pianos, in friends' apartments and hotel lobbies, where she had to keep quiet to avoid making a disturbance.

"I don't think of this record as being a breakup re-



This July 14, 2018 file photo shows Jenny Lewis performing at the Forecastle Music Festival in Louisville, Ky.

cord," she said. "It's more of a rebound record. It's kind of the space in between."

The southern California native relied on a network of friends during her post-breakup travels, staying in musician St. Vincent's New York apartment, for example. She and two friends formed a band and wrote songs in a Manhattan storefront, where pedestrians mistook them for an art installation. She spent time in Nashville and Minnesota. Even when she returned to California, Lewis used Airbnb to explore different parts of Los Angeles.

"I ran away," the 43-year-old said. "I really just got

back here a couple of months ago. It was a three-year adventure."

How much of an adventure? It's hard not to notice all the references to alcohol and other substances sprinkled throughout the album's lyrics. There's Hennessy, of course. Grenadine. Bourbon. Beaujolais. Red wine (unspecific). Amphetamines. Paxil. A bong. Part of it is a good writer's attention to detail, but still... "It's relevant," she said.

She brings a bottle to a restaurant in the heart of Hollywood where she talked about her music. Not to drink: it's a gift for a friend, singer Nikki Lane, who's performing later that night

nearby. A former child actress who turned to music and was a member of the group Rilo Kiley before going solo, Lewis has a wide circle of friends and admirers in the business.

None of that could have prepared her for the surreal experience she had at Los Angeles' Capitol studio while making "On the Line," however.

Lewis played on the piano that Carole King used to make "Tapestry," which is intimidating enough. Her band included former Tom Petty keyboard player Benmont Tench, record executive and bassist Don Was and the drum duo of Ringo Starr and Jim Keltner.

"That's one of my favorite moments in my whole life," she said. "Standing in the control room and watching Ringo and Jim play together, I was mesmerized. Of course I am thrilled, honored. Shocked, really. I kept thinking, 'Is someone doing somebody a favor here?'" Beck and Adams were two other big names who helped out. Adams, who produced Lewis' 2014 album "Voyager," produced some of the new music, too.

The association with Adams became noteworthy when the New York Times reported that he allegedly pursued younger female artists for sex and sometimes became verbally and emotionally abusive when turned down. Adams has denied the accusations.

Lewis was not included in the Times' story, and her interview with The Associated Press took place before the story was published. She declined a follow-up request to talk about it, and tweeted a statement: "I am deeply troubled by Ryan Adams' alleged behavior. Although he and I had a working professional relationship, I stand in solidarity with the women who have come forward."

Lewis subsequently held an online album-release party that doubled as a benefit for the Los Angeles Women's Center, and it raised more than \$10,000. □

# 'Daisy Jones and the Six' will draw you in

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

"Daisy Jones & The Six" (Ballantine Books), by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Like a poignant song with lyrics that speak to your soul, "Daisy Jones & The Six" by Taylor Jenkins Reid will transport you to another place and time.

Set in the drugs and rock 'n' roll culture of 1970s, the story begins with an LA "it girl" named Daisy Jones whose big blue eyes and copper hair get her into all the hot spots. She falls into music but with a gritty

voice like Janis Joplin and a gift for songwriting, she actually belongs there.

Then there's a band called The Six whose lead singer Billy Dunne is the definition of a rock star: he's moody, arrogant and handsome. Through a series of events, the two acts come together and form Daisy Jones & The Six. The group skyrockets with critical and popular acclaim, hit songs and a sold-out tour, until they suddenly, inexplicably break up. Now, all those involved, from the band members to their friends

and loved ones, look back and share their version of events in the first-person. It reads like you're watching a documentary where no one holds back.

Each character is compelling but Daisy Jones is the star. She's a blazing talent who is unapologetic in her sexuality and lives life on her own terms (which is fitting in this #MeToo era.)

In this era with so much content and stimuli, where we're on the internet while watching TV, what's great about this book is it draws you in, drowns out the noise

and you're just focusing on Daisy, Billy and their story.

If you haven't read Taylor Jenkins Reid's other novels, each one is completely unique, but her recent works "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" and now "Daisy Jones & The Six" really cement her status as an author with a gift for storytelling who is worth following.

Actress Reese Witherspoon must agree. She has secured the rights to "Daisy Jones" and will develop the story into a limited series for Amazon Prime. □



This book cover released by Ballantine shows "Daisy Jones & The Six: A Novel," by Taylor Jenkins Reid.

Associated Press



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